

Gur says Hamas dialogue possible

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel does not rule out negotiating with members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Deputy Defence Minister Mordchai Gur said on Saturday. Asked on Israel Radio what Israel would do if Hamas members are chosen for the Palestinian self-rule council in future elections, Mr. Gur said: "We will talk to them. Years ago we said we would not negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until it recognises Israel, refrains from terror and so on. In the end... they recognised Israel and made a commitment regarding terror." Hamas opposes the self-rule deal reached last year between Israel and the PLO. According to the agreement Palestinians were to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli and Palestinian representatives are still negotiating terms of the election and the Israeli troop withdrawal which will precede the vote. Hamas has claimed responsibility for three October attacks that have claimed 25 victims. Despite the violence, some of Hamas' political leaders are moving towards participating in future Palestinian general elections and claiming a share of power.

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100 die in Algeria, FIS chiefs back in jail

TUNIS (R) — Algerian authorities have returned to prison the two leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) after a goodwill gesture of moving them to house arrest failed, the newspaper El Watan said on Saturday. The men, Abassi Madani, the FIS president, and his fiery deputy Ali Belhadj, were taken back to their cells in Blida military prison in a week in which Algeria's official and independent media reported 100 people slain in the country's escalating civil strife. El Watan, normally reliable on security issues, said: "The two men regained their cells... last Wednesday evening." Meanwhile, a French tourist was murdered in Algeria, the 21st French victim of political violence in the country, the French foreign ministry said. It named him in a statement as Jean-Francois Marquette and said he had been on a tourist trip. Radio and television said the 27-year-old Frenchman had been kidnapped by armed men on Friday and his body was found on Saturday in the town of Bouira, 130 kilometres east of Algiers. See earlier story on page 7.

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Crown Prince returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home on Saturday after visits to Germany, Morocco and the United Kingdom. His Majesty King Hussein received the Crown Prince, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, upon his return. The Crown Prince led the Jordanian delegation to the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 conference held in Casablanca, Morocco, on economic development of the Middle East and North Africa. In a speech to the conference, attended by leaders and senior officials from more than 50 countries and 2,000 business executives from all over the world, the Crown Prince emphasised Jordan's commitment to a free market economy and enhancing the role of the private sector. The Crown Prince also presented Jordan's vision of a Middle East in a state of peace and stability.

Amman will host a follow-up conference to the Casablanca summit in mid-1995 when many of the proposals submitted in the summit are expected to crystallise into real projects. The Crown Prince, who flew to Germany before attending the Casablanca summit, paid a brief visit to the United Kingdom after attending the conference in the Moroccan city. Also receiving the Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath upon their return home were Their Royal Highnesses Princess Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Prince Ghazi bin Mohammad and Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan. Also present were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, the King's advisors, the King's private secretary, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai, heads of the Public Security and General Intelligence departments, Royal Court officials and the ambassadors of the United Kingdom, Germany and Morocco in Jordan.

Lower House begins debate of peace treaty

Majority support foregone conclusion, but opponents try to make their point

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday began its debate of the peace treaty with Israel in a marathon session that is expected to end today with the endorsement of the treaty by the majority of lawmakers. Twenty-seven out of 53 deputies who requested the floor addressed the House yesterday with the majority of them expressing support for the treaty and two parliamentary blocs announcing that they will vote for endorsing it.

Opponents of the treaty, however, also made their stand known during the session even though they admitted that they will not be able to block the ratification of the accord which is expected to pass with 55-59 votes in the 80-strong House.

The session started amidst strict security measures. Paramilitary troops were stationed on the major roads leading to Parliament. According to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, the government had received "information" which made these measures necessary.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House had recommended that the House endorse the treaty as the "best" accord the Kingdom could have reached in light of what is "possible and realistic."

The committee, which is headed by prominent centrist Deputy Abdul Karim Al Kabarti and includes representatives of all parliamentary blocs, said the treaty allows Jordan to regain all its rights in land and water and falls in line with the basic principles upon which the Kingdom entered the peace talks with Israel in Madrid in 1991.

But three of the 23-member committee opposed its recommendation on the basis of what they termed as ideological and realistic considerations.

The three Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies, Hamzeh Mansour, Bassam Omoush and Mohammad Al Haj, also rejected the committee's assertion that the

treaty will lead to the return of all Jordanian rights.

"The treaty has ceded Arab and Islamic land... four fifths of the land of Palestine" because the peace talks were based on U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and 338, said Mr. Mansour, spokesman of the IAF's 17-member bloc.

Mr. Mansour said he also rejects the treaty because it recognises the right of Israel to exist in Palestine, it allows for diplomatic relations between the Kingdom and Israel, puts Jordan in a strategic alliance with the Jewish state and does not lead to the recovery of all the Kingdom's rights in water.

The Islamist deputy, whose speech was interrupted more than once by people in the galleries who hailed the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, also blasted the treaty for calling for the elimination of any "aggressive and discriminatory" references in Jordanian and Israeli legislation, saying that this is a prelude for changing school curricula to rewrite the history of the struggle with Israel.

Though echoing the position of Mr. Mansour, IAF Deputy Omoush stressed that the IAF opposition to the treaty is predicated on its concern for the country and its future.

Referring to the history of the Islamic movement in Jordan, Dr. Omoush said the IAF will continue to defend the country with all its power because "we the Islamists never had a black page in this country."

"Now, and regrettably so, this treaty will receive the support of the majority which has to shoulder its responsibility before God and the people. It is democracy that allows all to speak their opinions," said Dr. Omoush.

But what the Islamists are calling for, he said, are not the principles of a limited party. They are calling for upholding the teachings of God and hence is the IAF call on other deputies to be "in harmony with themselves and reject the treaty."

Opposition deputies also charged that the treaty represents a deviation from coor-

dination with other Arab parties to the peace talks and weakens the position of those still negotiating with Israel.

Leftist deputy Mustafeh Shneikat said his opposition to the treaty does not stem from his rejection of the concept of peace but from the "failure" of the treaty to abide by the decisions of international legitimacy.

He accused the government of breaking its previously declared stand on the issue of refugees and displaced persons by agreeing to settle them in countries other than their homeland.

Harsh criticism of the government also came from Deputy Toujan Faisal who said the government was oppressing public freedoms. Ms. Faisal questioned the motivation of the deployment of security forces around Parliament, suggesting it resulted from lack of confidence.

Ms. Faisal said she "would use the margin of freedom" allowed to her as a deputy who has parliamentary immunity and speak against the treaty and "the lies the government is making."

She said this immunity was guaranteed by the Constitution and not by any other individual. Those who attempt to take away this immunity, she said, will themselves lose their immunity because they will be violating the Constitution that gave it to them.

Opponents of the accord also focused on a clause that allows Israelis to remain in Jordanian land under the "jurisdiction of Israeli law." They said this "concession" is a precedent that makes a mockery of the government's assertions that it has regained its sovereignty over all Jordanian land.

The Foreign Affairs Committee had responded to the opposition comments in its report, asserting that the Jordanian law will apply over these territories except in cases of disputes among Israelis who will be living in them.

The area in question, Baqura in the north of the country, consists of 6,000 dunums which belonged to Israelis since 1927, the report said. Five thousand dunums

were in Jordanian hands and 1,000 dunums were in nomads land. Under the agreement, Israel gives up its claim to the majority of this land but Israeli farmers will be allowed to continue utilising an area of 830 dunums for a renewable period of 25 years, the committee said in its report.

Proponents of the peace treaty sought to refute the opposition's arguments, asserting that the treaty is "a balanced accord" that serves the interest of the Kingdom and allows it to regain all its rights in land and water.

Announcing the endorsement of the treaty by the 12-member National Democratic Alliance, Deputy Ali Abul Ragheb said the treaty "was balanced to an acceptable degree, leads to the recovery of our rights and puts an end to the aggression of the other side."

"Out of mature patriotic motives and with national pride, I announce" the support of the coalition to the treaty, said Mr. Abul Ragheb.

Fan-Arabist Deputy Sameer Habashneh said Jordan did not break Arab coordination and has been the party that sought it most.

He said it was the Rabat Arab summit decision of 1974 that recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people and that made the occupied territories the responsibility of the PLO.

He said opposition was expecting Jordan to act as if it had all the resources of the Arab Nation and thus demanding from it more than it could realistically provide.

"Why wait?" Mr. Habashneh said in response to those who said that Jordan moved too quickly in signing the peace treaty with Israel.

"Why wait? Have we opted for peace because other Arabs are putting forward the option of war and we reject that? Are those Arabs who want us to wait worried because we will not be the last (to reach a peace treaty) when they wanted to use Jordan as a negotiating

(Continued on page 7)



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Deputy Prime Minister Thounqan Hindawi have a chat during Saturday's session of the Lower House of Parliament (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



Deputy Toujan Faisal consults her colleagues during Saturday's session of the Lower House of Parliament (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Lawmakers draw clear pro- and anti-treaty lines

In its first full debate of the Jordan-Israel treaty, the Lower House of Parliament yesterday listened to speeches by 27 deputies. Following is a report summarising those speeches

Abdul Hadi Majali (Karak), who spoke on behalf of the 16-member National Action Parliamentary Bloc, voiced support for the peace treaty with Israel and stressed that the treaty was a strictly Jordanian option.

This option was taken in order to safeguard the higher national interests and the treaty was a tool for Jordan to secure its usurped rights, Mr. Majali said.

"The Jordanian people were not in a position to delay the peace treaty further because delay means further sufferings and could lead nowhere," he added.

Mr. Majali explained that Jordan had offered an umbrella for the Palestinians enabling them to take part in the Madrid conference and later to take up their own course to reach agreements with Israel in Oslo. The Palestinian decision was taken freely and they are now on the way of regaining their rights, he added.

"At the same time we will continue to back the Palestinian endeavours. Now with the treaty ensuring our rights back and ending all threats posed to the Kingdom, we are in a stronger position to extend backing to the Palestinians," he said.

Coordination among Arab parties, Mr. Majali said, did not exist and Jordan had to opt for a way out of the difficult situation and rescue itself.

He questioned the reason behind those who felt angry over the treaty. Are they unhappy because "we have been rescued or because we

want our water rights back or because we have regained our occupied land and ended the siege on Jordan and breathed life in our economy?" he asked.

Defending the treaty as being part of an overall settlement, Mr. Majali said that by regaining "our rights in land and water resources we are regaining the rights of the whole Arab Nation."

If Jordan has now reached the end of the track, it hopes that the other parties will follow suit and attain their rights in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, he said.

Referring to those groups which express fear for the future, Mr. Majali said there was no fear that Arab culture would disintegrate. He said that all parties should join hands and face the coming stage.

He said Islam did not come to wage wars and threaten other people's lives but came with a mission to be spread around the world.

Criticising those who had always supported the regime and its policies for their rejection of the treaty, Mr. Majali said that the time has come for all citizens to join hands and work with "pure minds and clear conscience to serve the nation."

Ali Abul Ragheb (Amman)

Mr. Abul Ragheb, who spoke on behalf of the Democratic Bloc in Parliament, said: "Today is a day like no other, a day that will have a great significance in the history of Jordan and the whole region, a day in which we

face a dangerous turning point and therefore requires from us a high degree of vigilance and feeling of responsibility."

"The case before us today," said Mr. Abul Ragheb, "places us face to face with a major challenge in that we have a choice whether to remain dreaming and waiting for the unknown, giving no attention to regional and international developments or whether we become realistic and aspiring for a better future with all that it entails of hard work, planning and construction to ensure better life for our people."

"We view the peace treaty not as a panacea healing all ills; nor do we consider it to be fully satisfactory. But in my view it is balanced to a reasonable degree because it has secured the return of our lands and other rights and put an end to aggression and expansionist designs," Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

"We will continue to aspire to the day when genuine just and comprehensive peace will prevail in the whole region and we will pursue efforts to see an end to Israeli occupation of our land and the Palestinians regaining their independent state in Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital," he said. "We will continue to back all efforts aimed at the restoration of Palestinian refugees rights in their own homeland."

"In my view there can be no genuine peace unless it involves the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and ensures their full sovereign rights," he added.

"The present stage requires from people to pool

(Continued on page 7)

Cabinet panel to oversee assistance to victims of flood

AMMAN (J.T.) — In implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein to address the needs of victims of last week's flash-floods in Jordan, the Council of Ministers on Saturday set up a ministerial committee to supervise arrangements for assistance to the affected families.

The committee, which is chaired by Interior Minister Salameh Hamad, groups Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqour, Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzak Ensour and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan.

The committee was asked to report to the Council of ministers on progress of its work.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs has dispatched a team of officials and engineers to Mafraq region, one of the most severely hit by the storm to conduct a survey of damages there. The team will also visit Ramtha to the north.

A ministry official said the team would make a comprehensive study of the situation and make proposals for rehabilitation. The official said equipment would be sent to the affected

areas to help in reconstruction process.

In Zarqa, search continued for three people reported missing in the wake of the heavy rains and floods, which killed nine persons in the Zarqa region alone.

Official figures put the death toll from the floods at 21 killed. Al Dustour said Saturday that 24 people died, 34 were injured and 11 were missing.

Mr. Sqour chaired a meeting of heads of the departments of the Ministry of Social Development to review emergency assistance to victims of the floods.

Ministry sources said foodstuffs and financial aid will be distributed to the various families shortly.

In Madaba, local teams backed by the Civil Defence Department (CDD) and the municipal council were clearing culverts and rebuilding and clearing roads from earth and rocks.

Similar moves were reported in Karak and Tafleh regions which were also hit by the floods.

According to the department of meteorology, more scattered showers were expected Saturday evening and Sunday.



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives Nizar Abdul Qader Al Zaben (right), a youth who saved five people from drowning during the flashfloods that hit the Kingdom last week, in an audience attended by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and the King's advisors Marwan Al Qasem (fourth from right) and Abdul Rasoul Al Keilani (Petra photo)

King honours youth who saved five from drowning

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday honoured Nizar Abdul Qader Al Zaben, a youth who saved the lives of five people from drowning during the storm last Thursday.

Receiving the youth at the Royal Court, King Hussein paid tribute to his courage and conferred on him the Jordanian Independence Medal of the

Fifth Order and presented him with the Al Hussein Golden decoration and a royal gift.

Speaking later to reporters, Nizar expressed delight at the honour and said that he would cherish the gift all his life.

Nizar said that he led a group of passengers on a bus that was heading for Amman from Zarqa to save the passengers of a

small car which sank in the floods near the Pepsi factory.

Later he administered first aid to the five people and helped carry them in a car to the civil defence centre in Marka, to a local health centre and the Queen Alia Hospital. He also offered assistance to the rescued people some of whom were suffering from injuries.

مكتبة الملك الحسين

UNDP report identifies needs of Palestinian women

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A report that addresses the needs of the Palestinian women and identifies concrete steps to ensure their full participation in nation-building and social and economic development was launched Saturday during a press conference organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The 169-page document, titled "At the Crossroads: Challenges and Choices for Palestinian Women in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," is a compilation by a fact-finding mission fielded by UNDP during the current year when the organisation expanded its 14-year-old programme of assistance to the Palestinian people.

Funded by the Norwegian government, the report, according to Osman Hashim, U.N. resident coordinator and resident representative of the UNDP, is a "timely, updated, comprehensive strategic outlook, not an academic report."

It is, he added, a policy-setting, multi-setting, multi-disciplinary document, a point of reference for Palestinian women, decision-makers and donors alike.

Dr. Hashim also stressed the fact that the launching of

the report coincides with the high concentration of women in the region — grouped in expert, high-level policy discussion teams belonging to various U.N. or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) — whose work is aimed at preparing the women of the area for the September 1995 Beijing world conference on Women.

After the initialing of the Oslo agreement, said Dr. Hashim, "our programme focused on the role of women in the peace process. To put this into a material realisation, a mission of donors — Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands — and specialists and consultants carried up the study geared at arriving at a set of recommendations to the Palestinian authority."

The main concern and the compelling force behind the report was the marginalised role of women, their limited participation in decision-making in law, health, education, labour organisations and financial institutions. Thus, cautions the report, "unless women have a voice in decision-making bodies, their rights and emerging needs will most likely be overlooked."

It is a phenomenon typical of any developing country trying to assert its nationhood after years of occupation,

mentions Zahira Kamal, member of the UNDP mission in Jerusalem and project manager for project — promotion of the role of women within the Palestinian society and economy programme of assistance to the Palestinian people.

And that is why, she said, the report is an appraisal study to which women themselves contributed and which is important for the women agenda, as it pinpoints the problems and gives amending recommendations, and to the donors as it will help decide where to give support.

"We are doing the base-course for the needs of women. We will give suggestions as for Palestinian projects, but it is their projects, their programmes," added Ms. Kamal.

Adding that the report is a policy framework of action, Dr. Hashim noted that it was also the result of cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and addresses all the key players in Gaza and West Bank meaning to see women as "part of the society and of the peace process."

"We want to see a society (for building of which) men and women participate together. The future is involved. This is a crossroad, a starting point and everybody is needed," he concluded.



DEVASTATED VILLAGERS: Children riding a donkey in the devastated village of Dronka, some 400 kilometres south of Cairo. Some 550 people were reportedly killed after oil

tanks exploded and thousands are said to be left homeless (see page 12) (AFP photo)

Conference urges urgent anti-pollution steps

NICOSIA (AP) — An international scientific conference on Friday called for urgent measures to save the Mediterranean Sea from heavy pollution.

"Some coastal areas continue to be heavily and increasingly polluted," said a final communiqué by the three-day conference attended by 160 water treatment scientists from 30 countries.

The communiqué drew attention to the health risks posed by the discharge of untreated sewage, adding that "environmental legislation and standards for effluent discharges are still missing or inadequate in many of the riparian countries."

The conference was organised by the Water Treat-

ment Scientists Association of Cyprus and sponsored by the International Association on Water Quality and two United Nations agencies, the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The communiqué recommended that Mediterranean countries "adopt a more integrated approach towards the protection of the marine environment and its resources as part of their sustainable development projects."

It added that "there is an urgent need for low cost, efficient and environmentally friendly wastewater treatment technologies."

"Apart from the obligations arising from the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), countries should enhance their cooperation to-

wards the protection of their common sea," and adopt standardised monitoring and sampling programmes, it said.

The MAP is part of the original 1976 Barcelona convention adopted by all the Mediterranean states for the protection of their heavily polluted sea.

The communiqué said remedial measures adopted partly from the Barcelona convention and partly due to improved legislation as a result of increasing public awareness and pressure have "prevented further deterioration of water quality in the bulk of the sea."

But it added that a great deal still needs to be done. The Cyprus conference is the fourth international conference on the Mediterranean in three weeks, under-

lining the concern over the adoption of adequate measures for reversing the deterioration of its environment.

A conference in Tunis last week dealt with strengthening provisions of the Barcelona convention against coastal pollution from mineral and industrial wastes.

Ministers from Cyprus, Egypt and Israel will meet in Nicosia this week to adopt joint measures for combating large scale sea pollution incidents, such as those caused by major oil spills.

The week after another meeting in Barcelona will deal with the periodic review and updating of the Barcelona convention and all its related protocols in view of the results and experience gained to date.

Gruesome details transfix court trying Bakhtiar murder

PARIS (AP) — An anti-terrorism court sat transfixed Friday by descriptions of the scene where ex-Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar and his aide were found murdered in what a police official called "extraordinary cold blood."

The month-long trial, which opened Wednesday under heavy security, could shed light on suspicions that Iran's Islamic regime has sponsored some of the 63 attacks on exiled opposition figures.

Mr. Bakhtiar and his aide, Soroush Khatibeh, were strangled and knifed to death Aug. 6, 1991, at Bakhtiar's home in suburban Suresnes. Their bodies were found two days later.

Three people are on trial, one charged with assassination and the others with complicity. Ali Vakili Rad, 35, accused of being part of the hit team with two Iranians still at large, claims he was an activist in Bakhtiar's opposition group.

The seven-judge panel listened attentively Friday as police experts laid out in chilling detail the scene and circumstances of the double murder. Bakhtiar's widow, Shahintaj, left the courtroom as the accounts unfolded.

"The body of Shapour Bakhtiar was lying in the back of the living room on a couch, covered with a table cloth," said Jean-Pierre Biot, then-acting chief of the criminal brigade.

There were five slashes on the right side of Bakhtiar's neck and four deeper gashes on the left side. His right pant leg was raised to the knee, seemingly from the effort to place him on the couch.

The killers "showed extraordinary cold blood," Mr. Biot said. "Such a murder in

a villa guarded by riot police is stupefying."

Mr. Bakhtiar, who survived an assassination attempt 11 years earlier, was said to be the most well-guarded of several Iranian opposition leaders in France. Four riot police were posted at his home, changing shifts every six hours.

Lawyers for the civil parties — Bakhtiar's family and a group defending the rights of terrorist victims, SOS-Attack — demanded explanations as to why the bodies were not discovered sooner.

They also wanted to know how three killers were able to carry out the slaying and leave unnoticed.

The widow's attorney, Paul Lombard, charged that there had been an "extraordinary lapse" in security.

The bodies were discovered only after numerous phone calls complained of a constant busy signal. Police witnesses testified that the phone had been removed from its cradle.

The alleged killers met with Bakhtiar by appointment. One of the suspected assassins at large, Faridoun Boyerhamadi, who lived in France, was an acquaintance of Bakhtiar and had visited him twice in the weeks preceding the killings.

Vakili Rad had told investigators that he was duped into the visit, claiming he thought it was aimed at consulting with him on a plan to blow up an Iranian oil refinery.

Vakili Rad told the court Wednesday that he supervised activists in Bakhtiar's National Iranian Resistance Movement in Tehran.

A friend of Bakhtiar said French officials told the exiled premier shortly before he was murdered in Paris that he should leave the country.

Ladan Boroumand told the court that Mr. Bakhtiar felt that France was changing its policy towards him.

Ms. Boroumand, 37, said Bakhtiar told her in July 1991 foreign ministry officials had suggested he should leave France.

"He was rather bitter," she said.

Ms. Boroumand's father, Abdul Rahman, had been stabbed to death in Paris in May 1991.

The court questioned relatives and friends about Bakhtiar, including his son Guy Bakhtiar who became an inspector in the French police and was in charge of his father's security.

"He was not worrying about whether he was under threat, he was devoted to his fight," Mr. Bakhtiar said of his father.

The prosecution is seeking to establish that the Tehran government organised the killing.

Iran's opposition Mujahadeen denied on Friday that Vakili Rad had belonged to their guerrilla movement.

"Vakili Rad fabricated these lies in order to divert public attention from the direct responsibility of those who ordered (the killing), that is to say Iran's ruling mullahs," a Mujahadeen statement said.

Vakili Rad told the court on Thursday he had joined the Mujahadeen after becoming disenchanted with the Islamic revolution and later worked for Bakhtiar's clandestine resistance movement.

He has admitted during the investigation that he was at Bakhtiar's home at the time of his murder, but said he had not known the men with him had come to kill. The two other suspected killers are on the run.

Sudan churches, Muslims trade forced conversion charges

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Christians and Muslims are trading charges about forced conversions in Sudan, where the Islamic junta has failed to get a grip on the majority Christian south riven by civil war since 1983.

Christians allege the Muslims are enforcing conversions in the refugee camps surrounding the capital Khartoum, while Muslims complain about proselytism by the churches in the south.

Almost 1.8 million southern refugees, mostly Christian or animist, shelter in camps near here alongside thousands of homeless Muslims chased out of their shantytowns when the authorities began rebuilding projects in the city in 1992.

The Islamic fundamentalists who back the regime that took power in a bloodless coup in 1989 "have decided to mount a vast campaign of conversion to Islam in the refugee camps for southerners," said an official of the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) who asked not to be named.

Displaced in their own country, the refugees could

not enjoy U.N. protection but simply get U.N. humanitarian aid, he said.

They were put under government control, and the authorities let Muslim relief agencies have a free hand while placing restrictions on western ones, the church official said.

The organisations Al Dawaa and Islamic African Relief Association had opened 100 Koranic schools in the camps where the churches already ran 100 schools, he noted.

In some camps, the authorities allowed only the Muslim groups to open new schools. Christian children had to go to those schools and recite the Koran to get more food, the churchman said.

Conversion to Islam followed for hundreds of them in government primary schools, he said.

Mohammad Senada of Al Dawaa agreed that hundreds of southern Christians in the camps were converting to Islam. "But they are doing so willingly and without coercion," he added. "All we do is give them food and humanitarian help, to highlight the tolerant precepts of Islam,

since the (southern) rebels have made them believe the Muslims of the north are barbarians," Mr. Senada said.

"When they discover the opposite is true, they come and ask to join Islam, which is worshipping the churches," he said.

Mr. Senada said Al Dawaa's Koranic schools and 75 relief centres in the camps were open to all religions, "but we pay special attention to Muslims, whom we cannot leave at the mercy of Christianisation campaigns by the churches and western humanitarian organisations."

He added, "These campaigns force thousands of Muslims to convert in the south and west of the country, particularly in the Nuba Mountains region."

A Western diplomat commented that in most cases, a change of religion in Sudan was not a matter of conviction but a means of getting help or work. "All the same, he added, campaigns for conversion to Islam had become more intensive and open in the camps, as part of the military regime's policy.

Hamas says it will target informants

GAZA CITY (AP) — Thousands of Islamic militants marched Friday to demand revenge for the death of one of their leaders in a car bomb and said suspected Israeli informants could be a target.

"The time has come for the Palestinian security forces to confront informants instead of hounding the holy fighters," said a leaflet from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued Friday.

It was circulated among 10,000 worshippers at the Palestine Mosque, the main Hamas mosque in Gaza City.

Hamas accuses the Palestinian National Authority of arresting their followers without reason while failing to provide protection for Palestinians. A leader of the more radical Islamic Jihad organisation, Hani Abed, died Wednesday when a bomb blew up his car.

Abed was a suspect in the shooting death in May of two Israeli soldiers. Palestinians have accused Israel of Abed's killing, citing their threat to strike Islamic activists everywhere after several attacks.

Islamic militants are also angry at Yasser Arafat, charging he has put himself at the mercy of Israeli demands

Thai police say some Saudi gems returned

BANGKOK (R) — Thai police believe they have recovered some of the \$20 million in gems stolen from a Saudi palace in 1989 after making a nationwide appeal for the return of the jewellery, the Nation newspaper said on Saturday.

Deputy Police Director Pracha Promnok was quoted as saying the jewellery was handed in from all over the country to a committee assigned to handle the long-running case. He refused to give any more details.

Police last month opened a special post office box where people can anonymously send any of the missing gems.

The jewellery was stolen by a Thai gardener from the palace where he worked. He was tracked down and arrested in 1990 after fleeing back to Thailand but Saudi authorities said many of the items returned turned out to be fakes.

About a dozen police officers, including two former national police chiefs, face charges in connection with the case.

The Saudi envoy to Thailand, who has vigorously pursued the case over the past four years, has said his government would be satisfied with the return of the gems even if no one was punished.

Saudi Arabia drastically reduced the number of its Thai expatriate workers in protest at Bangkok's handling of the case.

Thai police have said they feel confident that some of the jewellery may be returned voluntarily if the holders feel confident they will not be punished or identified. An amnesty is being considered for people who return items.

Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai said at a televised news conference on Friday he was sceptical even an amnesty would work but appealed again to those holding the items.

"If any one of you has the gems, please return them for the good of the country," he said.

Save water ... every drop counts!

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PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Montagne
18:00 Le Vent Des Merveilles
18:30 News in French
18:45 Us Usain
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:30 F.B.I. Untold Stories
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 You Bet Your Life
21:10 Sherlock Holmes — "An Incident at Victoria Falls"
22:00 News in English
23:10 The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES

04:33 Fajr
05:52 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:19 Dhuhur
12:48 Asr
16:48 Maghrib
18:06 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swiss, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 635785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Association Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331

77261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 645932

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A depression will affect the Kingdom, thus temperatures will continue their gradual drop with a chance of scattered showers and winds becoming westerly moderate.

In Agaba, skies will be partly cloudy and occasionally rainy with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 13/16

Agaba 17/27

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts 11/19

Jordan Valley 17/24

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 19, Agaba 28 Humidity readings: Amman 78 per cent, Agaba 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Khalil Izzat 714451

Dr. Yousef Abdo 694916

Dr. Bassim Qudus 648633

Dr. Yousef Fagih 756988

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 670555

Naima pharmacy 826272

Al Salam pharmacy 667530

Yacoub pharmacy 649495

Shimani pharmacy 637660

Najouh pharmacy 625672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID: Dr. Mohammad Khalil 273099

Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA: Dr. Ghassan Faqih 906130

Dr. Hammad Khaliq 906130

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

QUEEN ALIA INTL. AIRPORT 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 660131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musater Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775112/6

Army, Marka 891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909090

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535

Great Catholic Hospital (02)72275

Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)547010

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Arab NGOs call on governments to appoint women to public office

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates representing non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from 11 Arab countries ended a three-day meeting in Amman Saturday by issuing a call on Arab governments to allow women to participate in various branches of government in the decision making process.

Organised as part of the preparations for the World Conference on Women to be held next year, the meeting demanded in particular that governments fill one-third of rural, municipal and diplomatic positions with women and implement programmes designed to spread awareness among women concerning their social rights and pave the way for women's participation in economic activities without discrimination.

The meeting, which was organised by the General Federation of Jordanian Women, (GEJW) urged the concerned authorities and various institutions to encourage women to join political parties and social institutions and called on the United Nations to increase women's participation in international

agencies to 50 per cent by the year 2000.

They called open governments to increase women's participation in diplomatic missions on an equal footing with men.

The participants urged Arab governments to introduce measures making basic education compulsory for women until at least the mid-level and to take drastic action to prevent school dropouts among girls.

They recommended that more attention be given to primary health care services, programmes encouraging breast feeding and family planning, and to make available funds to finance projects for women.

The statement said that the delegates have reviewed different issues pertaining to women's involvement in cultural, social, political and economic life and held several workshops to discuss issues pertaining to women's education, eradicating illiteracy and ending all forms of discrimination against women.

According to the statement the meeting called for the release of detained women from Israeli jails and allowing

the refugees and displaced families the right to be repatriated to their homeland.

Later Saturday, Her Majesty Queen Noor hosted a reception for participants in the NGO Forum.

Queen Noor, honorary president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, welcomed the participants and praised their efforts in promoting the advancement of Arab women. The Queen spoke of the marked advancement in the status of women in the Arab world, emphasising the continuing role each country has in implementing policies and recommendations to realize a tangible change in women's lives and in the development of the whole community.

The reception was attended by Princess Basma Bint Al Talal, head of Jordan's delegation to the Beijing conference, Gertrude Mongella, president of the Beijing conference, Supatra Masdit, the convener of the NGO Forum, Dr. Rasha Al-Sabah, Sheikhha Loulawa Al-Khalifah, Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, regional coordinator for Western Asia and other women leaders.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs Muhammad Al Batni (Photo by Yousef Al Allan) in social development spheres with visiting Yemeni delegation.

Government pledges assistance in social development to Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday said it would provide Yemen with expertise in social affairs and social security and extend assistance in educational and health fields to the Yemeni people. Meeting separately Saturday with Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs Muhammad Al Batni, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sogor pledged the government's assistance in these areas to Mr. Batni.

Mr. Batni said that he was making his current visit to Jordan at the head of a Yemeni delegation in a bid to

benefit from the Kingdom's expertise in social affairs.

The Yemeni delegation plans to examine the Ministry of Social Development programmes and look into the work of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and also study programmes carried out by special education institutions for the handicapped, Mr. Batni said.

The prime minister said that the two countries plan to sign an agreement to normalise cooperation between them in social affairs by providing for Jordanian expertise to be given to Yemen, and for the Yemeni govern-

ment to employ Jordanian experts.

Mr. Batni met earlier with Dr. Sogor, and discussed prospects for bilateral cooperation in social affairs, including development of local communities, registration and supervision of voluntary and charitable societies, training of personnel employed in social fields and matters related to women's activities among other topics.

Faraj Al Hashem, director of the National Aid Fund (NAF), outlined his department's activities and how less fortunate groups of families benefit from its services.

Princess Wijdan honoured for contributions to the arts

By Joanne L. Nix
USA

WASHINGTON — The world community is growing closer through knowledge of one another's cultures, according to Princess Wijdan Ali. The Princess visited Chicago, Illinois, this week to mark the beginning of Arab Heritage Month in Chicago and to receive a special award for her contributions to the arts.

On Oct. 28, more than 300 art patrons and officials from the U.S. and Arab World attended a black tie dinner at the Chicago Cultural Centre to honour Princess Wijdan, the creative force behind Jordan's National Gallery of Fine Arts and patroness of graphic art in Jordan. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with the opening at the centre of an exhibition entitled, "Forces of Change: Women Artists of the Arab World."

Salwa Mikdadi Nashashibi, curator of the exhibition and founder of the International Council of Women in the Arts, presented a large crystal inscribed with a message of appreciation to Princess Wijdan for her longstanding involvement with contemporary arts.

Ms. Nashashibi praised the Princess for creating "a treasure house in Jordan to share with the world" and explained that the Jordan National Gallery "houses a collection of contemporary art from Islamic countries stretching as far as Indonesia and all the way west to Morocco in North Africa."

During her remarks, Princess Wijdan praised "Forces of Change: Artists of the Arab World" and expressed hope that the exhibition

would dispel "myths harboured by some Americans about the role of today's Arab women in the family, the world of work and as artists."

"Most nations have learned to deal successfully with prejudice," she said. "Almost all nations condemn religious, racial, and class intolerance — at least on paper. However, mistrust coupled (with) misunderstanding and self-interest have promoted conflicts among peoples and divided the globe between east and west, north and south. All the wars that have plagued our earth happened simply because of the absence of tolerance, bred by ignorance, and lack of understanding..."

Princess Wijdan, an accomplished artist, received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Islamic art from the University of London. In 1971 she established the Royal Society of Fine Arts and a year later, donated her entire personal collection of contemporary fine arts to found Jordan's National Gallery. The museum now houses more than 1,800 pieces.

Besides her activities in Jordan and the Middle East, the Princess makes personal appearances to help raise money for women in the arts. During her current visit to the U.S. she met with art students and members of Chicago's art community.

"Forces of Change: Women Artists of the Arab World" opened in Chicago following its highly successful showing at Washington's National Museum of Women in the Arts earlier this year. It will run in Chicago until Dec. 16 and then is scheduled to

visit Miami, Florida, and Atlanta, Georgia.

The exhibit incorporates a wide range of styles, from paintings of traditional Islamic and Islamic ornamentation to abstract sculpture and multi-media exhibits. Some of the works combine the old with the new such as the poetry of Lebanese artist Ethel Adnan, whose handwritten verses draw on traditional Arabic calligraphy.

The exhibition includes 127 works by 61 artists from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the West Bank and Gaza, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates. It also contains work by artists of Arab origin living in the United States, as well as samples of Princess Wijdan's own contemporary calligraphy, depicting the slaughter of the prophet Hussein and 77 of his family and followers in the 7th century.

An illustrated 148-page exhibition catalogue for "The Force of Change" is also available. Its essays by distinguished experts serve as a valuable resource for those seeking information about contemporary art by women of the Arab World.

The International Council for Women in the Arts, a California-based, non-profit organisation which co-sponsored the exhibit, was established in 1990 to encourage, initiate and implement projects such as "The Force of Change," which help promote the art of women from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia and to open education and exchange channels between American audiences and the Arab World.

Islamist deputies assail treaty

Negotiator explains fine gal lines

AMMAN (J.T.) — In meetings of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee last week, three opponents of the peace treaty, all Islamists, explained why they opposed the agreement. Top negotiator Awn Al Khasawneh, on the other hand, defended the agreement when he appeared before the panel, which is headed by deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Following are major excerpts from the three Islamist deputies' objections to the treaty, which they read out before the full House Saturday, and Mr. Khasawneh's defence of it:

Hamzeh Mansour

Mr. Mansour said that Jordan's rights to its water and land, though extremely important, should not be taken separately from the Arab and Islamic rights. He said parts of the Arab and Islamic rights were usurped when they were part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which doubles the Kingdom's responsibility for them since they are an integral part, and since they were part of Jordan and it is unconstitutional to give them up.

The Islamist deputy refuted the government's claim that the treaty aims to protect the country from threats and conspiracies through demarcating the border in an internationally-recognised manner and said the government did not explain the source of threats and conspiracies facing Jordan after the signing of the treaty.

He also charged that the treaty does not constitute a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict as the government has pledged, alleging that the whole peace process was a race with the Palestinian self-rule authority which caused the most serious breach to Arab ranks since the Camp David accords.

He added that the government kept repeating that it will not give up sovereignty over Jerusalem, and the treaty now converts this sovereignty to mere religious guardianship over Islamic holy sites. "And as the Oslo agreement (between the Israelis and the Palestinians) had unjustifiably and unacceptably postponed the issue of Jerusalem, the Jordanian treaty made enough with religious guardianship over holy places, leaving Arab and Islamic sovereignty over the holy city to the unknown, despite affirmations by the government of the enemy state that unified Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel," he said.

Mr. Mansour said despite that the government had repeatedly stressed that it will not conclude a treaty that does not solve the problem of refugees and displaced persons, it signed a peace treaty that provides for normalisation and security, and makes the issue of refugees and the displaced a humanitarian problem instead of a political one, leaving the issue to the United Nations' committees.

"The treaty also gives the Zionist entity, under Paragraph 8 of Article 3, the right to private Israeli property ownership in Al Baqoura Nahariya area, and Jordan, based on that, pledges to allow the freedom of movement, entry and exit to owners of lands and their employees and visitors and to exempt them from any customs procedures or any discriminatory taxes and to take the necessary measures to prevent any harm to any person in the area and to approve the existence of the Israeli police in it and the implementation of Israeli laws over its residents for a period of 25 years that can be extended..." he said, arguing that these measures were unprecedented in the history of Arab-Israeli agreements when it gave the Israelis the right to own and use Arab lands.

He said the implementation of Article 4 in the treaty on security will have negative repercussions on several parties in Jordan and will lead to repressing public freedoms in the name of refraining from organising anti-Israeli actions. In addition, it bars Jordan from joining any military or security alliance which threatens inter-Arab agreements as well as political parties whose platforms call for the liberation of Palestine or seeking Arab unity, he said.

Furthermore, he continued, the treaty approves

Israel's right to establish expansionist agricultural and industrial projects surpassing its needs to meet the needs of the coming waves of Jewish immigrants, expected to total 2 million people over the coming six years.

He warned that the treaty will allow Israeli industries to penetrate the Jordanian market and threaten similar industries on the Jordanian side in view of the advanced level of the Israeli industries, their size and low cost.

Unfortunately, he said, the treaty has also called for assistance in sending refugees, saying this is rejected at both the public and official level.

"The Zionist entity has also succeeded in causing disputes between Jordan and the self rule authority over the issue of religious guardianship of holy places in Jerusalem, and the treaty stated that the freedom of visiting sites of religious or historic significance be guaranteed, thus delaying the discussion of the important and sensitive issue of Jerusalem to a later stage as was provided by the Oslo agreement."

"The Jews have also succeeded in securing a pledge (from Jordan) to refrain from broadcasting hostile propaganda, and it is anticipated that this danger will threaten — in addition to legislations and government — publications, school textbooks, mosque sermons, movies and all media of expression, which will lead to more restrictions on freedoms and means of expression."

He further criticised the treaty saying it provides for cooperation between the two sides in almost all aspects of life, thus exceeding any inter-Arab agreement.

Mohammad Ahmad Al Haj

Dr. Haj said the treaty violates the first article of the Jordanian Constitution stressing the integrity of Jordanian lands, and said that when the Constitution was put into effect, the West Bank, including Jerusalem, was part of the Kingdom. He argued that the Kingdom's 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was thus unconstitutional.

He said that the treaty violates U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 calling on Israel to withdraw from lands it occupied in 1967 or what is called the principle of 'land for peace'.

"The Jordanian people since 1967 until the Madrid conference understood that what is meant by the land (in the 'land for peace' formula) was the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Jordanian government did not mention in all that period any Jordanian lands occupied by Israel in 1968 or before, and nevertheless, these lands are included within the Jordanian lands that Israel should withdraw from..." He charged that the treaty was a separate deal with Israel although Jordan stressed its rejection of any separate peace treaty.

"When Egypt signed the Camp David accords in 1978, Jordan swiftly moved to declare that it was not party to these accords and affirmed through a statement issued by the Jordanian Cabinet the principles governing Jordan's stand on peace, and stressed Jordan's belief in the need to have a comprehensive solution based on regaining the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on the occupied Palestinian land and the right of the Palestinian people to self determination... and then Jordan joined the Arab front rejecting the treaty, which met in Baghdad."

He said the other three Arab tracks which participated in the Madrid conference, and Egypt before them, consider the Jordanian treaty as a separate deal and consider the Washington Declaration as a deviation from Arab coordination similar to Egypt's deviation following the signing of the Camp David accords as well as Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat's deviation in Oslo, Norway.

He also blamed Jordan for giving up its demands to occupied Palestinian lands and referring the issue to the "weakened and shaky" Palestinian authority.

He said guarantees by the Jordanian government to refrain from any anti-Israeli statements will create a confrontation between the government and the political opposition, describing this as part of a Zionist plot and as a

fierce aggression against Islam and Muslims under the pretext of extremism.

Claiming that the Jordanian economy will stand helpless in confronting the Israeli economy, he said that Israel will use the Jordanian market as a medium to penetrate other Arab markets, noting that this is something it failed to do after the Camp David accords.

He also criticised the agreement for failing to "properly" address the issues of refugees and Jerusalem.

Bassam Al Omoush

Dr. Omoush said politics and the status quo should not cancel Jordan's principled stands no matter how bad the prevailing conditions are, reviewing sacrifices offered by the Jordanians and the Arab army for Palestine. He said Jordan was able in the past to achieve results better than those achieved in the treaty.

"Were we stupid in the past? Are we the smartest of all today? So why did we wage wars? Why did we offer the blood of men in the battlefield? Why did we boycott Egypt and remove the headquarters of the Arab League from it? And why did we insist on our sovereignty over Jerusalem and on the fact that it is the essence of the conflict?" Dr. Omoush repeatedly asked.

He said Jordan was now at the threshold of a crucial stage that requires all its citizens to question their decisions and stands.

"I know that the treaty, regrettably, will gain the support of the majority (at the House) and this majority will have to face God and the people for its decision... Today we are not inviting you to the principles of one party, but are calling on you to abide by the principles of the Quran and the Sunna and history," he added.

He said no party in Jordan has the claim to monopolise patriotism and said that all parties are debating the issue out of their love for Jordan, Palestine and for all Arab and Muslim countries. "We are not in the opposition lines because we like that or because we like to have publicity, but the truth is that our opposition has its price and you know it. And we could have said 'yes' to the treaty and 'yes' to any government policy, but we will say and repeat 'no' to every mistake the government commits."

And we only say 'yes' to Jordan because it is our country, our land on which we were born, on which we live, and which we will defend with all the power we have," he asserted.

He reviewed the role of the Islamists in the historic events in the Kingdom, including the coup d'etat of the 1950s, the 1970 incidents and incidents in Ma'an in the late 1980s, saying the stands of the Islamists were in conformity with their beliefs and were not meant to achieve any factional gains. "We said 'yes' to stability in Jordan, 'yes' to the unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian people, 'no' for bloodshed, and 'yes' for Islamic-Arab brotherhood."

"Today we see people rejoicing over murdering security and killing national unity, and enjoying an incident happening here or there. We will not let them do that. The security men are our sons, their blood is ours and we will not allow a hypocrite to penetrate our lines, and we will not allow the treaty to reap the first fruits the Jews want," said Dr. Omoush.

He expressed reservations about most of the treaty's articles, but his criticism of articles on security was the most prominent in his statement. He said that since the treaty provides for establishing cooperative ties in the field of security, that all information on terrorism will be in the hands of the Jewish security forces.

He also argued that the treaty bans Jordan from any military coalition or bloc, means, he said, cutting Jordan from the Arab and Islamic world and cancelling all military and security treaties existing between Jordan and other parties if they contravene the provisions of the treaty.

He stressed that although the treaty guarantees the freedom of expression, it still provides for combating terrorism and hostilities, arguing that ambiguities will

play a role in defining terrorism and freedom of expression.

Also, Dr. Omoush claimed, the Jordanian economy was threatened by normalising relations with Israel, saying the Amman Financial Market and all its shares will be for sale, which will lead to a rise in share prices and thus those buying shares will do it only because they are prompted by fringed plots and designs.

That it is the Jews who will buy Royal Jordanian Petroleum Refinery and the Sahab Industrial City, especially through the government is planning privatisation."

He also denied that the treaty has "buried" the idea of having Jordan as the substitute homeland for the Palestinians and alleged that the opposite has happened. "Would we bet on the self-rule (authority) to become a Palestinian state as we see the Jews absorbing the (Palestine Liberation) Organisation, and will throw it away in the future?"

The Islamist deputy voiced objections to the Arabic translation of the treaty saying it was not precise and to the point.

Awn Al Khasawneh

Last week, top negotiator Awn Al Khasawneh addressed the House Foreign Relations Committee as he was debating the treaty, reviewing developments in the Jordanian peace negotiations since the peace process was launched in Madrid in October 1991.

Dr. Khasawneh said although the Palestinians were in the peace process, a joint umbrella project by Jordan since Israel's occupation of the West Bank, the Palestinians did not recognise the L.O., the Palestinians were since the beginning seeking independence on their track with the Israelis, "addressing that Jordan had no objection to that issue. He said the Palestinian tendency towards independence and the related developments started in the Arab summit in Rabat, Morocco, in 1974 when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was recognised as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and this culminated in Jordan's 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank."

Thus, Dr. Khasawneh, the action on which Jordan based its negotiations was that the Palestinians were excluded from the following points:

1- Demarcating and delineating its international borders in a final and recognised way to stop any expansionist designs and out of a desire to retain territory occupied by Israel.

2- Gaining a share of its international territory.

3- Achieving an acceptable security situation which takes Israel's security fears into consideration without having that the expense of Jordan's belonging to the Arab and Islamic nation and without harming its right to self defence needs and its citizens' right to enjoy their basic rights stipulated by the Constitution.

4- Work on establishing an area free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in a way that protects the peoples of the region.

5- Establishing balanced economic relations in that the lifting of the Arab boycott be met by removing Israeli barriers that have the effects of the Arab boycott and lead to facilitating the movement of persons, capital and labourers in the countries of the region.

6- Finding a just and acceptable solution to the bilateral aspect of the refugees problem on the basis of international law.

7- Not allowing in any form the policy of Israel's existence in Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thus, the Jordanian Israeli agenda several times expressed reservations about the condition of territories that came under Israeli military rule in 1967.

8- That any solution be part of a comprehensive settlement.

Then Dr. Khasawneh dealt with some thorny issues that faced the Jordanian negotiators and which were successfully settled by them to the benefit of Jordan.

He said Paragraph 6 of Article 2 which states: "They further believe that within

their control, involuntary movements of persons in such a way as to adversely prejudice the security of either party should not be permitted," was a Jordanian security requirement to counter demands by a minority in Israel to transfer Palestinians to Jordan.

The paragraph, he said, was originally included in the fourth article of the treaty which deals with security matters, but was moved to the second article on general principles so as no side will have this involuntary movement of persons under the pretext of legitimate self defence. In addition, the choice of the phrase "within their control" was intentionally chosen to prevent any indirect acts to evict the population not only within Israel proper but also in the occupied territories, he said.

Dr. Khasawneh also termed as a gain for the Jordanian government the inclusion of lands occupied in the 1940s or in the years 1968-69 which would not fall under the terms of reference of the U.N. Security Council resolutions which only call for withdrawal from lands occupied in the 1967 war.

He said that regaining the Baqoura area to Jordanian sovereignty was of extreme importance to Jordan in view of the area's strategic significance since it is the point where the Yarmouk and the Jordan rivers meet. "Thus the existence of Israeli ownership in it and the continuation of this ownership was secondary compared to the importance of regaining it."

He said the 4-square-kilometre Al Ghamar area which has 1,350 dunums of farm land was dealt with under the same footing, and since it was difficult for negotiators to settle it for its geographic nature, a compromise was reached allowing the Israelis the right to use the land only.

Dr. Khasawneh said since the security issues constitute an obsession for the Israelis, the Jordanian negotiating team based its strategies on three principles:

1- Delaying discussing the issue to achieve the best results in the issues of water and borders.

2- Not to meet Israel's demands at the expense of Jordan's existing treaties with the Arab countries.

3- Securing the largest number of guarantees for Jordan in security issues of concern to the Kingdom, and that is, the issue of conventional weapons, limiting negative influences on the Jordanian economy and limiting the negative influences of demographic movements.

Replying to deputies' fears that the article on security forbids Jordan from joining any military or security alliances, which some deputies interpreted as alliances with Arab countries, he said that the treaty only bars joining alliances which might be in contravention of the provisions of the treaty, affirming that the mere presence of troops on its land does not contradict the articles of the treaty.

He also said that Jordan has succeeded in striking a balance between the need to fight terrorism and the importance of respecting the basic freedoms to self expression and to organisation.

Describing the issue of refugees and displaced persons as the most complicated and difficult in the negotiations, he said the Jordanian negotiators succeeded in bringing up the issue in the common agenda, and stressed that having the issue at the bilateral level was a success because it only commits Israel since there are no Jewish refugees in Jordan. He also underlined that including the phrase "in accordance with international law," included in the article on refugees also stresses the right of refugees or displaced persons to repatriation.

As for the Israeli declaration of principles which discussing the issue until the final peace negotiations has led the Jordanian negotiators to the issue, according to Dr. Khasawneh, who at the Jordanian negotiations worked to keep the issue open at three channels: the quadripartite committee grouping Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians, the multilateral working group on refugees and the bilateral and trilateral talks with the Israelis and the Palestinians.

AMMAN (J.T.)

French right heads for split

PARIS (Agencies) — The French right headed for a possible split that could benefit the moribund Socialists as Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac declared his candidacy for next year's presidential elections.

The move by Mr. Chirac, who lost to President Francois Mitterrand in 1988, amounted to throwing down a gauntlet to his rightist rival and undeclared front-runner, Premier Edouard Balladur.

The bid intensifies a bitter duel between Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur, both members of the conservative Rally For The Republic party. To represent the right in the two-round elections next April and May.

If the battle damages conservative unity, the Socialists could reap a victory, a remarkable comeback for a party levelled in parliamentary elections last year.

To avoid that possibility, some are suggesting weeding out weak candidates with an American-style primary, rather than everyone brawling up the first round. The two-round system on each other.

"However the situation at this time evolves, the union of the (right-wing) majority around one single candidate has to be realised," Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said.

Polls show that European Chief Jacques Delors would be the Socialists' strongest contender. Like Mr. Balladur, he lacks the seasoned campaigning skills of Mr. Chirac and has not declared his candidacy.

Mr. Balladur and Mr. Delors appear to French analysts to be burnishing images of cool competence sitting above the political fray. Mr. Chirac trailing in the polls, has an interest in getting in early punches.

"We're not going to let

ourselves get dragged into the ideological debates that the French have been saturated with," Mr. Balladur said in his first public reaction.

Mr. Balladur's supporters criticised Mr. Chirac's declaration as setting up an electionally fatal split. Mr. Chirac's counter that playing coy was dishonest with the French people.

Sundered ranks could lead to a replay of 1988, when then-Prime Minister Chirac fought a bruising campaign against former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing before losing to Mr. Mitterrand, who was re-elected to a second seven-year term.

Mr. Balladur's enormous popularity since becoming prime minister in April 1993 has eroded in recent weeks over scandals in his cabinet and stubbornly high unemployment.

Mr. Chirac, 61, is considered slightly more conservative than Mr. Balladur. But both men are likely to push ahead selling off state companies and trimming social programmes.

Neither has come out strongly for or against calls by some conservatives to resume nuclear weapons testing in the South Pacific, ending Mr. Mitterrand's moratorium. The Socialists are banking on rising voter discontent with unemployment, which rose 0.1 per cent this week to 12.7 per cent, and with scandals now claiming members of Mr. Balladur's cabinet.

The biggest wild card could be Mr. Mitterrand, 78, who is suffering from prostate cancer. The president has said that he may resign early, forcing snap elections, if his health fails to the point he can no longer perform his duties.

Speculation is rife that Mr. Mitterrand might step down

at the moment when Mr. Delors, 69, has the best chance of winning. But he is also thought to wish to be the first fifth republic president to finish two terms.

Mr. Chirac helped engineer Mr. Balladur's appointment in April 1993 as a caretaker before the presidential election.

The Paris mayor has watched Mr. Balladur, 65, build up a separate power base within the Rally For the Republic and among other rightist parties to set up a rival presidential bid.

Other declared candidates are Jean-Marie Le Pen, the far-right National Front leader, Communist Robert Hue, Trotskyite Arlette Laguette, and environmentalists Dominique Voynet and Brice Lalonde.

A beaming Chirac, at his best on the campaign trail, Saturday continued a tour of northern France, shaking hands with supporters and studiously avoiding reporters.

The former premier is to make his first comments as an official candidate in a television interview Sunday night.

The popular satirical television puppet show Les Guignols De l'Info (The News Clowns) pictured an excited Chirac twirling around Balladur and Delors, repeating "that's it, I am candidate" but failing to draw their attention.

The powerful machine of Mr. Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR), the country's biggest party, has already started rolling, issuing what it called a first list of 107 RPR members of the National Assembly, out of a total 259, backing Mr. Chirac's bid.

The RPR has called an emergency congress in seven days' time at which Mr. Chirac hopes to be appointed its

official candidate. Mr. Chirac, dropping the presidency of the RPR to seek an image as a leader above the parties, might then be able to intimidate the more staid Balladur out of running.

Some analysts noted winners in past presidential elections had staged short campaigns. They said Mr. Chirac, facing a 170-day marathon to the elections, could burn out and be forced to back out of the race if he failed to catch up with Mr. Balladur.

"Chirac can fail if he is not credible enough," said Pascal Ferréol, head of the Centre of Political Studies. "He will have either to fight Balladur from an underdog position or quit."

"In either case it will leave deep scars on right-wing voters," he said.

While Mr. Chirac's supporters rallied around him, Mr. Balladur's backers expressed dismay and fears that a bruising feud could again hand victory to a Socialist candidate, as in 1981 and 1988 when President Francois Mitterrand won.

"It's really a catastrophe," said MP Patrick Balkany, a Balladur ally. He said Mr. Chirac's friends were being hypocritical by not telling him straight he had no real chance of winning.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, the RPR secretary-general and a Chirac supporter, said he was "allergic to the idea of a battle" between Chirac and Balladur and hoped the party could still agree a single candidate.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua repeated his call for primary elections among conservative supporters to choose a single candidate—a scheme unprecedented in France and one Chirac wants to preempt as Mr. Balladur would be the favourite.

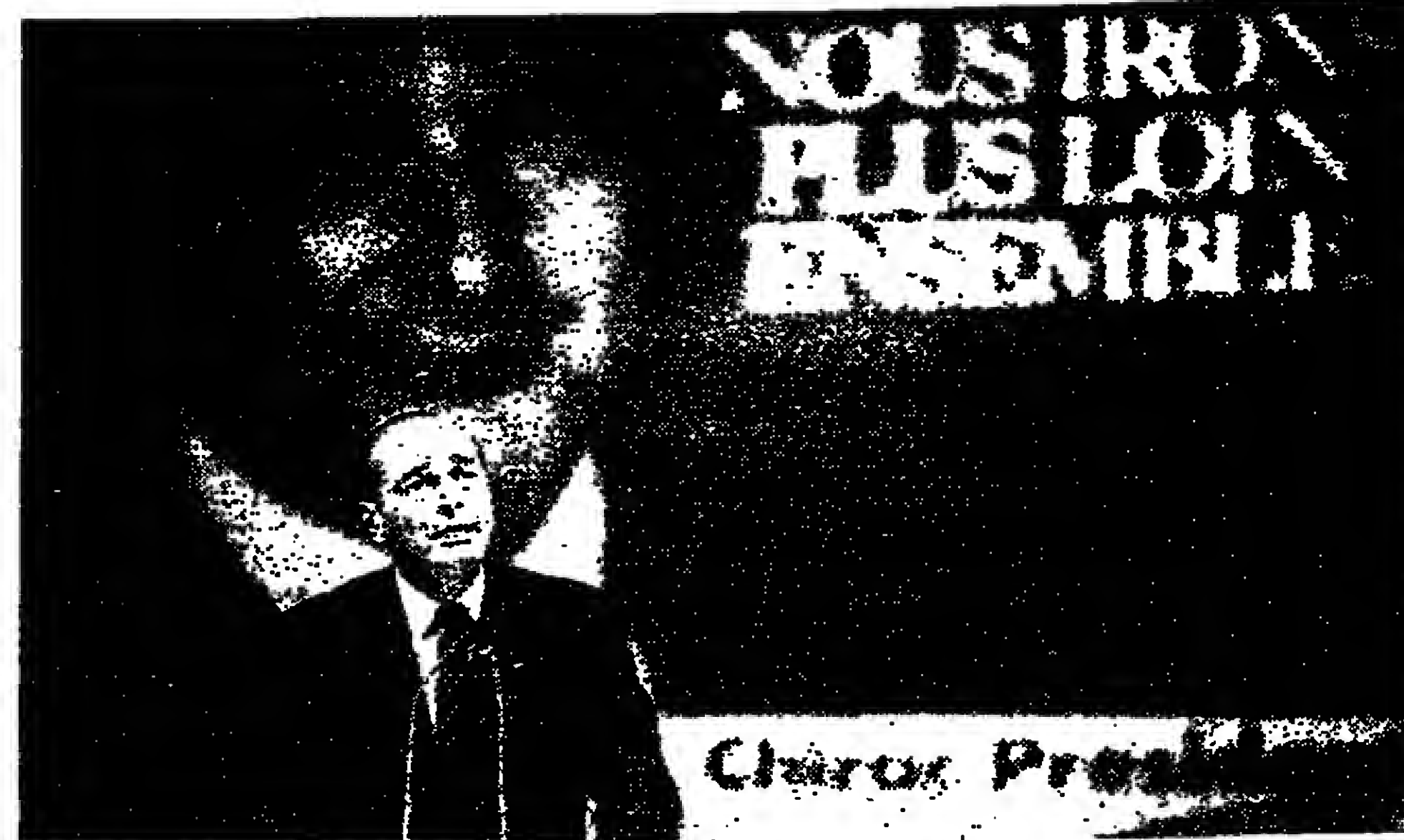


Photo dated April 13, 1988 of Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac during the last French presidential campaign that he lost against Francois Mitterrand. Mr. Chirac announced he will stand in France's presidential election next April, surprising opponents and some in his own party with both the method and the timing of his announcement (AFP photo)

Bangladesh premier sacks information minister for proposing compromise

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia sacked her trusted ally, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Saturday for proposing a compromise with an opposition seeking early elections under a caretaker administration.

"The prime minister has sacked Huda and President Abdu Rahman Biswas has approved it," an official at Mrs. Khaleda's office told reporters.

The Information Ministry said Mr. Huda had resigned. In a newspaper interview published Thursday, Mr. Huda suggested that the government complete its five-year term in early 1996 and then transfer administrative powers immediately to the chief justice.

As caretaker prime minister and assisted by four judges, Mr. Huda said, the chief justice could appoint a new election commission within seven days and hold elections within 50 days. The maximum tenure of the caretaker government would be 90 days.

Many ministers and policymakers in the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) expressed surprise at

Mr. Huda's proposal, which he described as his own initiative.

Government sources said the revelations had created a rift in the BNP leadership and put the government in a fix. The prime minister was angry that he did not even consult her.

A defiant Huda told the Daily Star newspaper Saturday: "My party may disown me. The prime minister may ask me to resign. But I cannot disown (what) is now a public property."

"I know my proposal is against the party line and may embarrass the party. It is difficult to reconcile with the party after this, but what I have proposed is for the greater interest of the people. I prefer to do something for this nation even at the cost of my cabinet post."

The opposition described Mr. Huda's remarks as a positive sign.

"If the proposal is endorsed by the prime minister then I can say good sense has emerged in the government," said opposition chief whip Mohammad Nasim.

Opposition on parties have boycotted parliament since February to press demands for the government to resign

and hold an early general election under a neutral caretaker government.

Earlier Saturday, international efforts to end Bangladesh's political crisis had suffered a setback with news that Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen, Prime Minister Khaleda and key negotiators had all apparently been taken ill.

Doctors were called to see Sir Ninian, 71, after he suffered breathing problems Friday night following a trip outside Dhaka, sources at the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital said.

One source said his condition was stable, but a room had been reserved at the hospital in case of emergency. Neither Sir Ninian, who is staying in the state guest house, nor his two aides could be reached for comment.

S.A.M.S. Kibria, political adviser to opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, said Saturday he had been sick for two days and did not know the exact status of Sir Ninian's mission.

Sheikh Hasina herself cancelled a trip Saturday to her ancestral home in the southern town of Tungipara in order to meet diplomats, her aides told reporters.

8 killed as Pakistan troops, extremists clash

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AFP) — At least eight people were killed and more than a dozen injured Saturday as troops launched an operation against activists demanding Islamic Laws in northern Pakistan, local residents said.

The casualties were sustained during clashes that erupted at several locations on a 10-kilometre stretch between the towns of Mingora and Odigram, residents of the region, quoting official reports, said by telephone.

They said that nine paramilitary soldiers were among the injured.

Troops were earlier moved into northern Mingora district as militants belonging to the Tanzeem ul-Fazl-e-Shariat (TNSM) besieged several towns to press demands for the enforcement of strict Islamic Laws in the area.

The operation followed seizure at gun point Wednesday

and Thursday of dozens of senior government functionaries by the TNSM to press their demands.

The residents said nine paramilitary soldiers were transported to military hospitals by helicopter and ambulance.

They said hundreds of tribal supporters strategically positioned themselves in the mountains, obstructing troops movements.

Haiti's senate ratifies premier

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's upper house of parliament took a first small step in installing a new government Friday when it ratified progressive businessman Smark Michel as the new prime minister.

The Senate voted unanimously to approve Mr. Michel, the former commerce minister nominated last month by his longtime friend President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

However, the lower Chamber of Deputies could not even agree on when to vote and argued over the ratification until Friday night.

Mr. Michel cannot take office until the lower house approves, after which both chambers must approve a new cabinet and declaration of policies.

His ratification is seen as crucial to getting the Western Hemisphere's poorest country moving forward again after three years on a downward slope.

The Senate vote came shortly after the Chamber of Deputies passed by a show of hands an important law that takes the country's undisciplined police force and places it under civilian jurisdiction.

That bill must also go before the upper chamber where it is expected to pass easily and go into law.

The discussions ended a long day for lawmakers, many of whom met with Mr. Aristide Friday morning to hear him appeal for their help in uniting the troubled nation.

Only 44 of the 81 deputies, including many of his fiercest opponents, turned up at the ceremony along with 14 of the country's 17 senators.

After his short address stressing good relations between the legislative and executive branches of government, and other speeches by the head of the upper and lower houses, Mr. Aristide shook hands with each representative. He also joined the representatives in eating hard-boiled eggs and then hummed along to a tune played by a Haitian army band.

The diminutive priest, 67, turned intently to the politicians who lined up to speak with him, often laughing in his easy-going style. "He insisted on reconciliation," said Senator Smith metellus, an Aristide opponent. "The president has acquired a certain maturity. You can see that from his speech."

Japan mission to Rwanda is unravelling — sources

TOKYO (R) — Japan plans an early pullout of troops from camps for Rwandan refugees, government sources confirmed Saturday, in a potentially embarrassing end to its first unilateral dispatch of troops overseas since World War II.

The troops' mission, hotly debated even before they left, was unwinding because of poor security in the camps in neighbouring Zaire and political infighting at home. The sources said the catalyst for the early withdrawal was a refugee attack last Thursday on a Japanese medical team which was rescued by Japanese troops.

They said about 100 of 260 Japanese troops in Zaire on a humanitarian mission since the withdrawal of French forces, would be pulled out in early December and the remainder would leave by about Dec. 20, eleven days ahead of schedule.

Within hours of reports of the early withdrawal, Japanese news reports from Zaire quoted soldiers as saying the two-stage pullout could leave the last group without sufficient security to protect themselves.

"Upon hearing the news, several troops said they will not be able to maintain sufficient safety measures around their camp if such a large number go home," Kyodo News Service said in a report from Goma where the forces are based.

International aid agencies have also warned they may

pull out unless the refugees are controlled.

The crisis brought into the open the feuding between Japan's Foreign and Defence ministries, long at loggerheads over the decision to send troops to Zaire in September.

Defence Ministry sources said they believed the troops were used as a pawn by the Foreign Ministry to back its campaign to win Japan a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Japan's push for a permanent seat has been weakened by its reluctance to commit troops to peacekeeping missions.

The sources said the Defence Ministry had been reluctant to take on the mission because 260 troops were far too few to operate in a situation likely to draw them into a wider role.

Military commanders were also unhappy they did not have a clearly defined role apart from giving humanitarian aid.

Japan sent troops to Mozambique and Cambodia in the past two years, each time under the umbrella of the United Nations as part of an international force and with clear goals.

The Zaire mission was the first time since the end of the war that Japanese forces were sent abroad unilaterally, a controversial decision because of the anti-war constitution and strict controls on the military's role.

Indian police: Kidnap mastermind was Briton

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian police said Saturday the key man in the kidnapping of three Britons and an American was a Pakistani-born Briton.

A senior police officer, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters that interrogation of several Kashmiris as well as documents seized by police after their operation that freed the captives had identified the man.

The policeman said the person who presented himself to the captives under the Hindu name Rohit Sharma had entered India from Pakistan in late July. The three Britons — Paul Ridout, Myles Croston and Rhys Partridge — were lured into captivity by someone they described as a charmer who spoke excellent English. They told reporters after they were freed — in a raid in which two Indian policemen and one of their Kashmiri captors were killed — that

Mr. Sharma said he was a student of politics at the London School of Economics.

The three said the man clearly knew London well and had told them he was in India because an uncle had died, leaving him a village. On the second or third meeting in an area of Delhi packed with cheap hotels for young travellers, Mr. Sharma invited Mr. Ridout and Mr. Croston to visit the village with him for a few days.

Mr. Partridge had enjoyed it so much he extended a planned two day trip to four, Mr. Sharma told them. "It seemed like a great opportunity to see some real Indian life," Mr. Croston said.

When they arrived at the house in Saharanpur, some 150 kilometres north of Delhi, they were held at gunpoint and tethered to a stake with chains along with Mr. Partridge, who was held from Sept. 29 until freed Monday.

Japan's Komeito splits to join new party

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Buddhist-backed opposition party Komeito voted to split itself into two new parties Saturday ahead of a merger with a larger opposition party to be formed in December.

The party is the second to decide on dissolution this week as a precursor to the nation's sweeping political realignment. Earlier, the Japan New Party (JNP), headed by former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, decided to dissolve.

Feisty Clinton stumps for California Democrats

LOS ANGELES (R) — Fighting to get a Democratic governor in the most populous U.S. state and keep a Democratic senator there, President Bill Clinton talked himself hoarse at a California rally and swore he was working hard on the key issue of illegal immigration.

Mr. Clinton, on a seven-state campaign swing to help his party in Tuesday's elections, told the evening rally outside Los Angeles City Hall that while he opposed a proposal to cut California government services to illegal immigrants, his administration had attacked the problem in other ways, including increasing border guards.

"We haven't been laying down, folks. We're answering the call to do something," Mr. Clinton declared to the cheering crowd, with incumbent Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein and Democratic gubernatorial challenger Kathleen Brown standing nearby.

The president, focusing on good economic news in Los Angeles as he had earlier in Minnesota, said California's unemployment rate had fallen from 9.4 per cent when he took office 21 months ago to 7.7 per cent now.

"I have done everything I could do to bring it (the jobs rate) down," the president said. "I need a partner here... we know Kathleen Brown has a plan, a good plan," he shouted, but his voice was breaking from the strain of campaigning all week around the nation.

Mr. Clinton is trying to keep his party from losing its seven-seat majority in the Senate and its 78-seat advantage in the House and to claim powerful state governorships such as Califor-



U.S. President Bill Clinton (centre) stands with California Democratic gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Brown (left) and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein during a rally at Los Angeles City Hall. President Clinton is on a two-day visit to California to campaign for Ms. Brown and Ms. Feinstein (AFP photo)

nia's, where Republican Pete Wilson is campaigning for reelection.

Both Mr. Wilson and Senate Republican candidate Michael Huffington support Proposition 187, the tough anti-immigration measure on the ballot Tuesday in California. Ms. Brown and Ms. Feinstein oppose it.

Support for the measure has dropped dramatically in the last week, a poll found Friday. The poll published in the San Francisco Examiner found that 45 per cent of those polled would vote for the so-called "save our state" measure, while 44 per cent would vote against, with 11 per cent undecided.

The controversial measure would cut off welfare, education and non-emergency health care to California's estimated 1.6 million illegal immigrants.

The same poll, conducted by Political/Media Research Inc. of Washington, said Mr. Wilson's lead over Ms. Brown had narrowed to four percentage points, 48 to 44 per cent.

Mr. Huffington's support took a blow last week when it was revealed he had hired an illegal immigrant in his home despite his anti-immigration stance, and Ms. Feinstein now is leading him by about six percentage points in the polls.

Mr. Huffington has spent about \$25 million of his personal fortune on the race, something Mr. Clinton complained about in an interview Friday with Los Angeles' KGO Radio Station.

"I mean, these campaigns have just turned into nothing more than multi-million dollar negative ad slugs," the president said.

Earlier, stumping for Democratic Senate candidate Ann Wynn in Minnesota, Mr. Clinton trumpeted new data showing the national unemployment rate fell to 5.8 per cent last month, and denied Republican charges that he was lying about their plans for social security.

Mr. Clinton has demonstrated a new feistiness on his seven-state campaign trip which began Thursday, despite the fact that his own poll ratings appeared to have fallen to about 43 per cent after a blip upwards last week.

The tour has taken him to New York, Iowa, Minnesota, and California so far. He planned events in Washington state, Michigan, Delaware and another Minnesota stopover before returning Monday evening to Washington.

Kevin Costner's wife files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) — The wife of Oscar-winning actor-director Kevin Costner filed for divorce Friday, citing irreconcilable differences. Costner's petition, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, confirmed a statement made the couple nearly two years ago that they were ending their marriage of 16 years.

The couple married as college sweethearts in February 1978, and separated June this year. In her divorce petition, Cindy Costner said she and her husband had come to a written agreement over custody of their three children — Anne, 10, Lily, and Joe, 6 — and Costner's visitation rights. The children are living with their mother.

They also agreed on a property split and who would pay the legal fees for the divorce according to the petition, but no details were given. In statement issued on Oct. 1, the couple said, "we did not come to this decision easily and on behalf of our entire family we ask to be allowed the dignity of sorting through this most painful part of our lives in private." Costner, who won an Academy Award as best director for *Dances With Wolves*, is currently working on the big-budget futuristic adventure movie.

Stolen monkeys found safe

LA PALMYRE, France (AP) — Two rare monkeys stolen from a zoo in western France have been recovered safe and sound after their kidnappers apparently changed their mind following media attention, zoo officials said Saturday. The monkeys, an endangered species known as Tamarin Lions with a distinctive golden mane, disappeared from their cages at La Palmyre Zoo Tuesday after thieves cut through chains. An anonymous telephone call Friday evening led police to a corner of a street in the nearby town of Royan where the animals were found, looking well and nourished, inside a large container. The animals, two males aged eight and two-and-a-half years, were born in the zoo and were destined for reintroduction to the wilds in Brazil. Officials at the zoo said they believe the thieves changed their mind after media reports they could go to jail for the theft.

Sheikh Hasina herself cancelled a trip Saturday to her ancestral home in the southern town of Tungipara in order to meet diplomats, her aides told reporters.

Opposition on parties have boycotted parliament since February to press demands for the government to resign

8 journalists awarded Press Freedom Prizes

NEW YORK (AFP) — Eight journalists, four of them killed or missing in Tajikistan and the rest from Cuba, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and Turkey, were named recipients of International Press Freedom Prizes Friday. The Commission for the Protection of Journalists awarded half this year's prizes to Sajjonol Fakhridinov, Sharofuddin Kosimov, Pirimkul Santori and Kishavaro Sharifova, all of the Tajikistan newspaper Navidi Vakhsh. All four were reported killed or missing last year. Former Cuban journalist Yndamiro Restano, another recipient, was currently imprisoned for trying by peaceful means to end his country's Socialist regime, the commission said.

Daisy Li Yue-Wah, chairwoman of the Hong Kong Journalists' Association, was rewarded for her efforts to maintain the independence of the press in the British colony ahead of China's takeover in 1997. Iqbal Athas, of the Colombo Sunday Times, was awarded a prize for coverage of the war between the Sri Lankan government and Tamil rebels in spite of death threats. Veteran Turkish journalist Aziz Nessim, 79, was honoured for his fight for freedom of expression in the face of attacks by Islamic fundamentalists.

The Security Council's statement Friday was satisfied with the number reached in a year when it asked the U.N. to watch for any violations monitoring territory.

"The agency has been protecting the statement as it guidance, not a decision in North Korea since beginning of the work. Western diplomats are with nuclear affairs."

"I am a chief of staff. It now expected to see a transition in the head of the board of directors, it is possible to change it by continuing the dialogue."

The board of directors to hold a meeting on the beginning of the year, but the board and the Council decision, significant and it is not a transition in the monitoring territory."

Under the U.N. Security Council's statement, and eventually, after existing stipulations on nuclear matters."

Strike shuts Eiffel Tower to public

PARIS (AFP) — The Eiffel Tower, the central Paris landmark and major tourist attraction, was closed to the public for the second straight day Saturday because of a strike by employees demanding extra staff. Negotiations between management and unions continued Saturday and a management spokesman said that "everything will be done so that the tower will reopen during the day."

The tower's panoramic restaurant remained open to customers as it has a separate entrance. The unions contend that the 180 staff employed at the tower are not sufficient to cope with the 20,000 daily visitors.

Tension rise

INDIAN — The Indian government has been accused of violating the provisions of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Repatriation (DDR) process in the context of the recent elections.

Security forces have been accused of using excessive force against the civilians in the context of the elections. The government has been accused of violating the provisions of the DDR process in the context of the elections.

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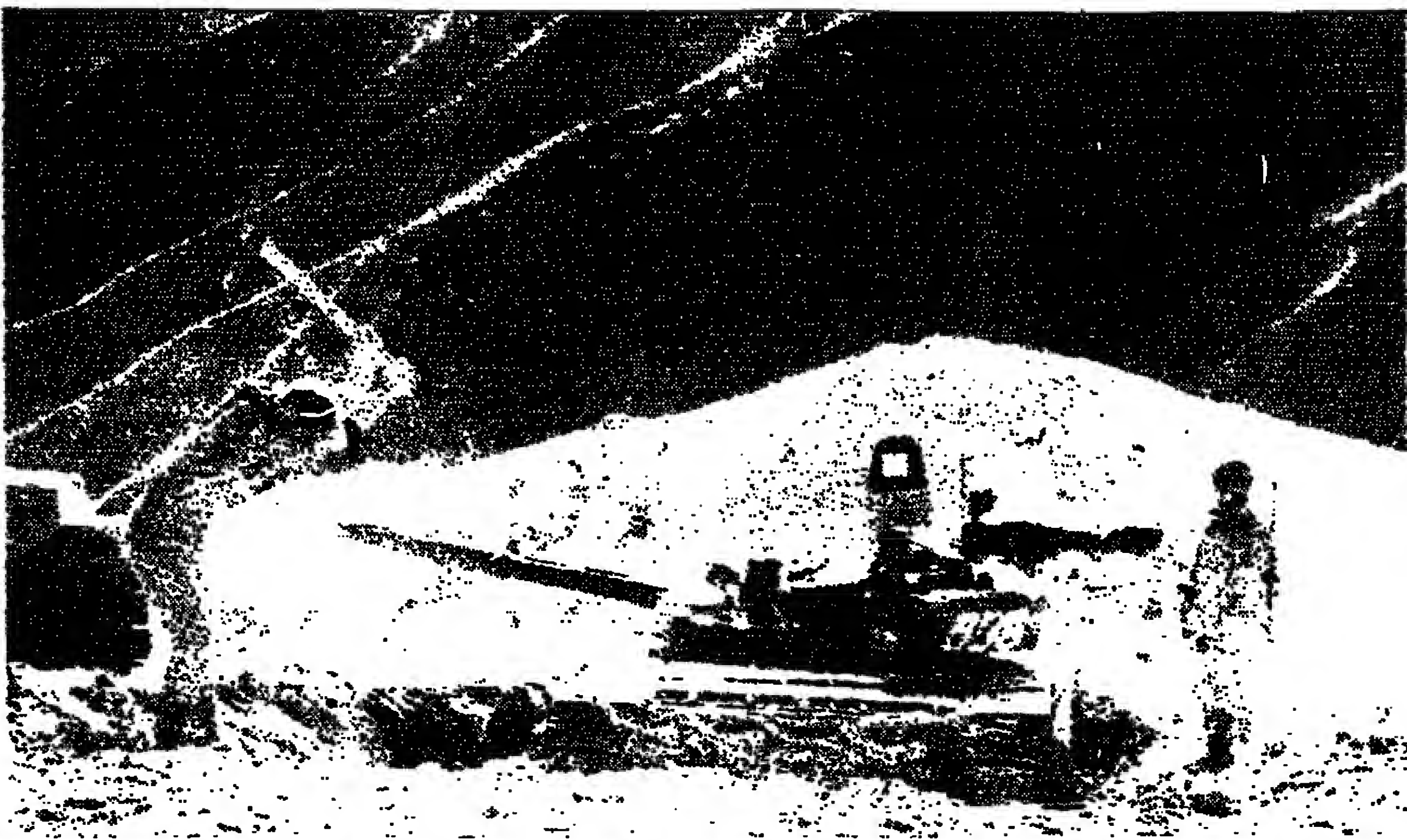
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A Russian border-guard of the 12th Frontier Post digs a shelter trench for a tank while another soldier surveys the

surrounding of their position at the Tajik-Afghan border (AFP photo)

Tension rises in Tajik capital before election

DUSHANBE (R)—Tension rose in the Tajik capital Dushanbe Saturday on the eve of the Central Asian republic's first presidential elections.

Security forces armed with machine guns guarded key buildings and many drivers were stopped for roadside checks after four explosions in the city Friday.

Presidential candidate Abduljalil Abduljanov, challenging parliament chairman and acting head of state Imomali Rakhmonov, flew to his political stronghold of Khatlon in the north of the country after spending the night at Dushanbe Airport.

Mr. Abduljanov, a businessman, former prime minister and currently Tajikistan's ambassador in Mos-

cow, said he had initially been prevented from leaving a television studio before going to the airport.

"They didn't let us out of the television building and then we slept here until the morning," he told reporters.

Mr. Abduljanov did not say why he was kept at the studio, where he had been expected to take part in a television programme.

Russia's Interfax News Agency quoted the government spokesman as saying the delay at the airport was caused by special checks of every plane introduced after Friday's explosions.

The blasts damaged a telephone exchange, the Agriculture Ministry, a printing house and some other buildings in Dushanbe. Tajik Television reported several in-

juries. A senior government official condemned the explosions as an effort to disrupt the election, being held with a referendum on a new constitution for the former Soviet republic of 5.1 million people.

Mr. Abduljanov declined comment on who was behind the explosions but said: "It was to the advantage of those who do not want stability in the republic."

Most of the ex-Communist government's real opponents, an alliance of Islamic groups and liberals whose guerrillas have been waging cross-border raids from Afghanistan since losing a bloody civil war in late 1992, want the election called off.

Some analysts and diplomats have said the absence of

the opposition may lead to little change the Tajikistan's problems after the election, in which there are no big ideological differences between the candidates.

However, the government and opposition agreed in a third round of peace talks in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, earlier this month to extend a ceasefire for three months.

The truce, which came into force on Sept. 20 with the arrival of U.N. monitors, was due to expire on election day.

Liviu Bota, head of the United Nations mission of observers to Tajikistan, said Prime Minister Abduljalil Samadov had assured him the explosions would not affect the implementation of agreements reached in the talks.

"He assured us that they would not affect the implementation of the agreements they have undertaken," he told journalists.

"We have expressed the hope that the events of yesterday will not create obstacles in the badly-needed process of democratisation."

"Also we hope that these events will not be used to limit the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Tajikistan."

A key agreement reached in Islamabad was on the exchange of 27 prisoners on each side through the International Committee of the Red Cross. It was due before midnight (1900 GMT) Saturday.

The country is heavily reliant on Russia for its security. There are some 25,000 Russian troops in Tajikistan, mostly along the rugged Afghan border, along with a tiny contingent of Commonwealth of Independent States peacekeepers.

Bosnian Muslims, Serbs battle for northwest Bosnia town

SARAJEVO (Agencies)—Bosnian Serb and Muslim forces battled for the northwestern town of Bosanska Krupa Saturday and U.N. peacekeepers said government troops were preparing to expand their successful offensive in central Bosnia.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said Bosanska Krupa, on the edge of the Muslim-held Bihac pocket, was being fiercely defended by the units of the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).

"The BSA is putting up a stiff fight," said U.N. spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon. "We think there must be a lot of casualties and the town will not be easy for the Bosnian government army to capture."

Peacekeepers believed the BSA still held the eastern bank of the Una River around Bosanska Krupa whose civilian population has been evacuated to safety.

Muslim troops have been trying to capture the town since launching an autumn offensive 10 days ago that has rocked the BSA by driving Serb forces onto the retreat in northwest and central Bosnia and southwest of Sarajevo.

Although the BSA claimed to have retaken some lost ground in a counter-attack, the U.N. said the only evidence of this was in some fighting south of the Bihac pocket.

U.N. spokesmen said they expected fresh Muslim-led offensives in central Bosnia to build on the capture of Kupres. The town of Donji

Vakuf, slightly north of Kupres was the next possible target.

Cemerska Planina north of Sarajevo was also thought to be vulnerable to Muslim attack.

According to the U.N., the Muslims were meeting little resistance southwest of Sarajevo in their attempts to advance on the town of Trnovo and to cut a vital supply road between Serb territory in east and southeast Bosnia.

"We understand that (the Muslims) are now certainly able to put direct fire on the town or the road but we don't have details of that," U.N. spokesman Tim Spicer said. "There is a report that five (Serb) tanks were captured in the fighting but that is unconfirmed."

The U.N. reports of Serb setbacks were denied by the BSA's own version of events which claimed the Muslims were being driven back in the Trnovo area and that territory was being recaptured in the northwest.

The BSA has ordered a general mobilisation across the 70 per cent of Bosnia under its control in an attempt to stem the biggest Muslim battlefield successes of the 31-month war.

Quoting Bosnian Serb military sources the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) charged that units from the regular Croatian army had been fighting alongside the Muslim-led Bosnian army and their Bosnian Croat allies.

Bosnian Serb troops have "established new lines of de-

fence" and since Friday are in control of the plateau northwest of Kupres and the road from Kupres to Sipovo, it said.

The communique was from the military command of the 2nd Army Corps of the self-styled Serb Republic, based at Bosanski Petrovac in western Bosnia.

According to the communique, the Bosnian army is now stationed to the east of the town of Kupres from where it is launching artillery attacks on "Serb-held positions."

At the front at Bihac, in northwestern Bosnia, Serb troops also inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment on the Bosnian army's 5th Corps which they were continuing to push back, the communique said without giving more details.

The Serb military information centre at Lukavica, near Sarajevo, also quoted by SRNA said that Friday Serb forces had regained a large swath of territory to the north-west of the capital during a "violent counter-attack."

In another report Saturday the Tanjug News Agency said Bosnian Serbs claimed three cargo ships full of arms, ammunition and fuel arrived for the Bosnian army Friday at the Croatian port of Ploce.

Bosnian Serb military sources were quoted as saying that one of the ships was transporting around 9,000 tonnes of fuel, and the others were carrying arms, ammunition and military equipment "sent to the Bosnian Muslim forces by Islamic

countries." The arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina, which the United Nations is considering lifting, is being openly flouted and has become largely a fiction, the New York Times reported Saturday.

The newspaper said Croatia was now building or assembling everything from battle tanks to MiG-21 fighter aircraft and acting as the main conduit for the flood of weapons reaching Bosnia.

It said the arms building and trafficking was being helped by the ready availability of arms and military components in the former Soviet Bloc countries and by an apparent American readiness to turn a blind eye.

"What I need, I get," Croatian Defence Minister Gojko Susak said in an interview with the newspaper.

"The arms market is saturated, so saturated you would pay three times the price if you got things legally."

Mr. Susak described buying arms in countries including Poland, Bulgaria and Russia as "an open market" and told the Times Croatia was now providing the army of the Muslim-dominated Bosnian government with anti-tank weapons and ammunition for mortars, cannons and machine guns.

"The effect of the increase in the arms available to the Bosnian Muslim and allied Bosnian Croat forces has been evident in the last week in two successful offensives against the long-dominant Bosnian Serbs."

Berlusconi warns off Fini

ROME (R)—Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Saturday told his hard-right ally Gianfranco Fini to forget any dreams he might have of replacing him as premier.

He warned the leader of the fascist-tinted National Alliance (AN) he would defend his job "tooth and nail."

In an interview with La Repubblica newspaper, Mr. Berlusconi told Mr. Fini, the slick and articulate head of a movement seeking to bury its black-shirted past, not to entertain dreams of forming a far-right government.

"I will defend... my programme, my ideas and my people tooth and nail," said Mr. Berlusconi who swept to power in March general elections just two months after entering politics.

"We are an army of moderates and political reformers and our tradition must rest solidly democratic. We are allied with a right-wing party led by a very intelligent man—but we are not a part of the right."

The media magnate warned Mr. Fini, whom polls show has overtaken Mr. Berlusconi in the popularity stakes and whose party is fast gaining ground, not to invade his space.

"I have always been and always will be a man of the centre. Fini knows that and I think he also knows that it is not in his interest to show even a hint of arrogance or try to tread on his neighbour's turf."

Mr. Berlusconi made his comments just days after an opinion poll showed Forza Italia, the free-market party he formed at the start of the year, waning and AN gaining ground.

The poll, conducted by the SWG Institute for La Repubblica and published Tuesday, showed support for Forza Italia had dropped to 23 per cent from European elections in June when its approval rating was 30.6 per cent.

Over the same period AN saw its projected vote share jump from 12.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent.

Last weekend Fini said he would not be opposed to early elections.

"I don't want early elections, but I'm certainly not afraid of them and... we wouldn't stand in the way of them because support for us is growing."

The clean-cut Fini, 42, is considered the rising star of Italian politics.

He has led the Italian Social Movement (MSI), AN's core party founded by the heirs of wartime dictator Benito Mussolini, out of the political wilderness where it languished for five decades and into government after elections last March.

More fighting reported in Angola but peace deal expected to be signed

LUANDA (AFP)—Government forces Saturday pursued their offensive against UNITA, the rebel movement

as the U.N. envoy to Angola dismissed fears that fighting would derail a peace accord, to be signed in 10 days' time.

Aljonne Blondin Beye confirmed here Saturday that a meeting of military leaders from the government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) would meet in Lusaka Nov. 10 to work out final details of a ceasefire.

But he dismissed UNITA threats to pull out of the peace deal if the government offensive continued.

Mr. Beye said he was convinced the two sides would sign the peace accord as scheduled on Nov. 15. The ceasefire is due to come into effect 48 hours after that.

"I would not wish to believe that those who drafted the (Lusaka peace) protocol will refuse to sign it," Mr.

Beye told reporters here. Meanwhile UNITA renewed charges that a government air bombardment had been launched against the rebels' former headquarters in the southeast town of Jamba.

The rebels' Radio Vozes said Saturday the bombardment, which started Thursday, had destroyed an orthopaedic centre sheltering an unspecified number of war-wounded. The shelling had also claimed civilian lives.

There was no immediate confirmation of the attack.

Government forces have since mid-September advanced into south and central regions held by UNITA.

The Angolan army said it had taken the town of Caala around 18 to 20 kilometres from UNITA's current headquarters in Huambo.

Two-horse race between RENAMO and FRELIMO, which two years ago signed accords ending a 16-year civil war.

No official results are available from the independent National Electoral Commission (CNE), which oversees voting. CNE Chairman Brazao Mazula says partial results may be available Monday.

Some 12 presidential candidates and 14 parties or coalitions took part in the Oct. 27-29 elections for the presidency and the 250-seat parliament.

But the poll was mainly a

Mozambique ruling party sees narrow poll win

MAPUTO (R)—Mozambique's long-ruling FRELIMO party Saturday forecast a slim parliamentary win for itself and a clear victory for President Joaquim Chissano in the country's first multi-party elections.

A FRELIMO source told Reuters the party, which has ruled since independence from Portugal in 1975, estimated Mr. Chissano would

win 53.33 per cent against 32.70 per cent for his main rival, Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the former rebel movement RENAMO.

Some 12 presidential candidates and 14 parties or coalitions took part in the Oct. 27-29 elections for the presidency and the 250-seat parliament.

But the poll was mainly a

two-horse race between RENAMO and FRELIMO, which two years ago signed accords ending a 16-year civil war.

No official results are available from the independent National Electoral Commission (CNE), which oversees voting. CNE Chairman Brazao Mazula says partial results may be available Monday.



French Mission Specialist Jean-Francois Clervoix and space shuttle pilot Curtis Brown peer out of Atlantis' flight deck windows after releasing the CRISTA-SPAS satel-

lite. Clervoix, Brown and four others are on an eleven-day atmospheric research mission aboard the space shuttle (AFP photo)

Shuttle mission satellite starts work

HOUSTON SPACE CENTRE, Texas (AFP)—A satellite released by the space shuttle Atlantis began its observation work on atmospheric gases after a hold-up of several hours due to technical problems with the telescopes, space agency officials said.

Navigation and communication problems delayed the functioning of the telescopes shortly after the \$35 million German-made satel-

lite was deployed Friday by French astronaut Jean-Francois Clervoix.

The navigation unit was blinded by sunlight making it difficult to lock its telescopes on to stars and radio links were malfunctioning, officials at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said.

Controllers at the command centre on earth resolved the problems Friday

evening and the vessel began collecting information on atmospheric gases which scientists hope will give a better understanding of the depletion of ozone which protects the Earth from ultraviolet radiation.

The CRISTA-SPAS satellite will remain in orbit eight days before being retrieved by the six-member crew of the Atlantis, due to return to Earth on Nov. 14 after 11 days in space.

IAEA board to meet on N. Korean nuclear pact

VIENNA (Agencies)—The board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to meet soon to discuss implementing a U.N. request to monitor the recent U.S.-North Korean nuclear pact, diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The Security Council in a statement Friday said it was satisfied with the nuclear pact reached in October and asked the U.N.'s atomic watchdog to carry out related monitoring activities.

"The agency has been expecting the statement giving it guidance on its future role in North Korea since the beginning of the week," a Western diplomat dealing with nuclear affairs said.

"IAEA chief Hans Blix is now expected to call an extraordinary meeting of the board of governors as soon as possible to discuss how to continue," the diplomat added.

The board of governors is to hold a regular meeting at the beginning of December, but the source said the Security Council decision was so significant it merited an extraordinary meeting to discuss it.

Under the Oct. 21 accord, North Korea agreed to freeze and eventually dismantle its existing graphite-moderated nuclear reactors.

In return, Washington would head an international consortium to finance and supply North Korea with a new generation of light-water power plants less suited to the production of plutonium that could be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

The IAEA and North Korea have feuded for the past two years over Pyongyang's refusal to permit all the inspections the U.N. agency considers necessary to determine whether North Korea has secretly reprocessed plutonium to develop nuclear weapons.

The Vienna-based IAEA is responsible for monitoring compliance with safeguards under the 1970 nuclear non-proliferation agreement, which North Korea has signed.

Under the Geneva pact, North Korea agreed to allow the IAEA to monitor the freeze on its graphite-moderated reactors.

It also conceded all inspections needed to verify full compliance with nuclear safeguards once a significant proportion of the new reactor project has been completed. This could involve a delay of up to five years.

The Security Council statement, read out at a brief meeting, "notes with satisfaction" the U.S.-North Korean

accord as a "positive step in the direction of denuclearising the Korean peninsula and maintaining peace and security in the region."

It asked the IAEA to "take all steps it may deem necessary" to verify North Korea's full compliance with nuclear safeguards and to monitor its freeze under the agreement with the United States.

South Korea welcomed Saturday a U.N. Security Council statement approving the recent U.S.-North Korean nuclear pact and asking the U.N. nuclear watchdog to monitor the North's compliance.

"The South Korean government warmly welcomes the presidential statement of the U.N. Security Council and evaluates it as a proper measure," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"The statement is regarded as an important step on grounds that it gave the IAEA additional authority for monitoring North Korea's nuclear freeze," he said.

Meanwhile, South Korea and China will sign a memorandum of understanding this month on possible construction of two South Korean-model light-water nuclear reactors in China, Seoul's envoy to Beijing was quoted as saying Saturday.

Ambassador Hwang

Byung-Tai told South Korea's Yonhap News Agency that officials from Korea Electric Power Corporation and Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute would soon visit Beijing. The memorandum was due to be signed on Nov. 23.

He said the two countries also planned to sign a protocol on cooperation in nuclear safety matters.

Mr. Hwang was in Seoul for weekend security talks with Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo and the South Korean envoys to Tokyo, Washington and Moscow. The theme of the talks was the changing political situation in North East Asia following last month's U.S.-North Korean nuclear agreement.

"The construction of (South) Korean-model light-water reactors in China would put big pressure on North Korea," which has expressed unwillingness to accept them in its new nuclear programme, Mr. Hwang was quoted as saying.

Mr. Hwang could not be reached for comment. If the project goes ahead, it would be the first time South Korea had built nuclear reactors for China, North Korea's last remaining influential ally.

Militia leader's absence delays Liberia peace bid

ACCRA (R)—Militia warlords and the foreign ministers of Ghana and Nigeria cooled their heels in Accra Saturday as the late arrival of faction leader Charles Taylor delayed the latest bid to end Liberia's civil war.

Former civil servant Taylor, the man who launched the war from Ivory Coast in 1989, is key to any lasting settlement to the

fighting and anarchy that have brought Africa's oldest independent state to the brink of total collapse.

Ghana, which has peacekeepers in various world hotspots and is taking the lead in this latest attempt to bring Liberia's warring factions together, delayed the opening session of the closed-door talks, saying

Mr. Taylor was expected at any moment.

"Taylor is the only one who has not yet arrived but we are expecting him any time now," a Ghanaian Foreign Ministry source said. "We do not want to start a full session with absentees."

But the source said rival warlords, some of whom have been in the Ghanaian capital since Tuesday, were

showing signs of irritation and wanted the talks to begin as soon as possible.

"Ghanaian officials are in close consultations with the various groups separately, trying to seek their views, consensus and generally clear the ground to ensure the talks succeed in achieving acceptable and lasting peace," he added.

هناك من الأصل

Jordan Times

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Rains need not kill

THE HEAVY rains that fell in many parts of the country over the weekend unnecessarily took a heavy toll on human life. Official sources spoke of up to 21 people as having lost their lives with 11 missing in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom, which is a terrible tragedy by any human standard.

This is not the first time that flashfloods take many lives and cause considerable material destruction. We cannot therefore claim that we have been caught off guard. The country has a long history of heavy rain, especially in the southern regions. We can recall no less than two or three cases of serious flashfloods every decade or so. The only surprise is the fact that we are still ill prepared to deal and cope with natural disasters such as those that repeat themselves every so often.

There are several measures that we could have taken when the country acquired the know-how and the tools to avert such disasters or at least minimise their damages. Planning is on the top of the list of steps that the country could have adopted right from the start. By planning we mean choosing the right places where towns and villages should be encouraged to grow, and the right type of construction to face heavy rains or earthquakes. Dams are also the normal way for averting floodings in areas accustomed to receiving heavy rains in the winter season. The list is indeed long as to what the government is capable of undertaking to contain any damage or loss of life under difficult natural conditions.

What happened in Egypt a few days ago is a case in point as to what concerned authorities could have done to avoid natural catastrophes simply by proper planning but did not do. When oil depots placed too close to centres of populations catch fire for whatever reason, it is normal to expect that the result would be tragic. The Dronka fire last week took the lives of 550 Egyptian people simply because there was a grave error of judgement about where to construct oil storage depots.

To be sure, there is no foolproof method to avoid disasters be they man-made or contributed by nature. Still, what we can expect from our authorities is more planning, preparation and contingency measures when the odds work against everything that we have envisaged or expected. Perhaps our civil defence authorities can spearhead the national effort in this direction, by outlining well in advance the areas that are prone to natural disasters and then submitting the relevant proposals for dealing with the imminent dangers. No doubt other governments would have to pitch in the battle along the road. But for now, at least, a task force has to be created in order to look at the root causes of why there were so many casualties and so much damage and then to ensure that a similar tragedy does not occur in the future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS natural to see public controversy raging in Jordan over the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Whether at the Parliament level or otherwise, said Al Ra'i daily. But this controversy reflects the fact that the Jordanian people enjoy a high degree of awareness and are ready to interact with events and scrutinise them before arriving at a decision, said the paper. However, the manifestations of support for His Majesty King Hussein and the peace treaty over the last few days in Jordan give an indication that the majority of people are for peace and they back their leader in his plans to attain prosperity for his people, it said. If Parliament endorses the treaty — as it is most likely to do — the Jordanians are required more than at any time in the past to show and exercise national unity, especially as the peace treaty entails major challenges and opens the way for more diligent work and sacrifices, said the paper. It said that the coming stage requires from the Jordanians to rise to and meet the challenges of the coming era.

THE CHANGE from the position of war to a status of peace ought to be accompanied by certain changes in the economic conditions and an improvement of the quality of life so that peace can be meaningful, said a columnist in Al Dustour Saturday. Taher Al Adwan said that economic development is part and parcel of the requirements of peace to which the Arab people aspire at the moment. But he noted that the improvement can only come about in a democracy and respect of human rights and social justice.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic benefits of peace for Jordan

By Dr. Fahed Faneck

PEACE BETWEEN Jordan and Israel is now secured. Comprehensive peace in the Middle East is around the corner. The economic boycott is about to become history. 1995 will be the first year of the peaceful era in the area. The question is what benefits will accrue to Jordan on the short, medium and long terms.

On the short-term, Jordan will benefit from extra water, more foreign aid, debt relief, higher tourism activity and better expectations.

Jordan will recover a substantial part of its water, which will give a push not only to agricultural production but also to industry and civil life. Water shortages are a major problem for the country. Any extra source will give rise to other activities previously on hold due to lack of water.

Foreign aid was always a major source of public financing. It started with British aid until 1956, followed by American aid until 1967, when Arab Gulf states took over until 1990. Since then, Jordan received some aid from Japan, Germany, the European Union, the United States and other European countries but the volume of foreign aid was just enough to keep the Treasury going. It is hoped that peace will encourage donors to contribute more in order to make peace work.

Debt forgiveness in favour of Jordan was initiated by the president of the United States, Bill Clinton, who pledged to

write off all the Kingdom's debt to the U.S., which amounts to around 12 per cent of Jordan's foreign indebtedness. Mr. Clinton also undertook to urge other industrial countries to do the same. So far the response is not good enough but the signing of the peace treaty and the commitments made by Mr. Clinton in his address to Parliament may give better results.

Tourism already started its revival. With two crossings between Jordan and Israel, Jordan will receive as many tourists as its capacity may be able to accommodate. The touristic package, including Jordan, Egypt and the holy lands will become the most attractive touristic attraction in the world. No wonder that eight classified hotels are now under construction in the Petra area alone. Tourism activity in Jordan may double in one year, and then grow steadily at a very high rate of growth to become a major source of foreign exchange.

Of course, peace may improve the expectations of the business circles, as the area is perceived to be in preparation for take off. Better expectations will have immediate impact on business behaviour all over.

On the medium-term, some sectors will grow faster, especially transport and transit business and exports.

Jordan is situated in a way to make it the cross-road in all directions. Syria and Turkey cannot reach the Gulf markets

except through Jordan. Iraq cannot reach the Red Sea except through Jordan. Israel cannot reach the Arab markets except through Jordan. Transport and transit business will definitely make a jump under peace, especially when the sanctions against Iraq are eased and eventually lifted.

Exports will continue to grow fast. The new market in the West Bank will be sufficient to cause 30 per cent growth in exports and six per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP). It is too early to assess the capacity of the Israeli market to absorb Jordanian products, but the value of such exports will be substantial, relative to the size of the Jordanian economy, if Israel did not follow protective measures to inhibit Jordanian competition.

In the longer-term, the major factor will be the new investments by Arab, foreign and local investors. Jordan will become a safer place. There will be no more threats of Israeli aggression. Security means lower risks and more investments. Investments are the only way to create jobs, raise income and make the man in the street feel the difference.

Of course, there will be a cost. Competition is good but it has its casualties. Many will benefit from the new window of opportunity but those who are inefficient may give way to others.

No peace in Israel without recognition of Palestinian's national rights

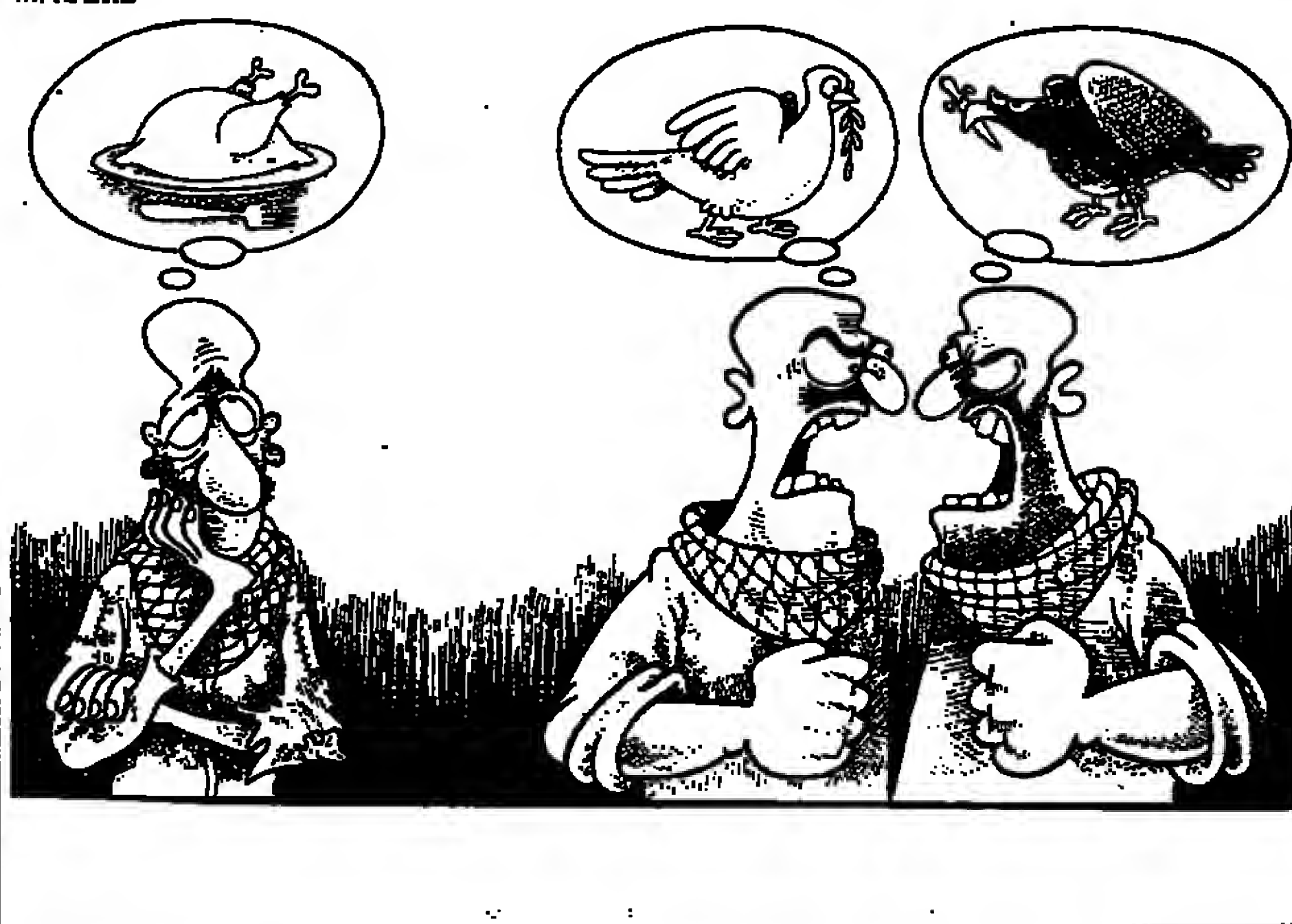
By Pascal Karmy

IT SEEMS that Israeli leaders are unable to rid themselves once and for all of both their superiority complex and occupation mentality, which have been ingrained in them as a result of their distorted ancient history of Palestine and of the occupation of Palestinian land for more than 27 years. Thus, Israel has never qualified or characterised the occupied Palestinian territory as "occupied." But simply, as "territory" because Israel considers the latter as part of the Biblical land of Israel (Eretz Etsel). They believe that Palestine is theirs for they allege that it was promised to them by their God "Yahveh" as mentioned in their Torah, which they themselves had written in times past. This belief or rather allegation is contested by historical facts which refute them.

Palestine has been known since time immemorial not as the land of Israel but as the land of Canaan, as written even in the Torah, which the Christians sometime call the Old Testament.

This Torah is a mixture of history, legend and Hebrew mythology. The Israelis or the Hebrews, as they often used to be called, conquered about 1200 BC only part of Palestine from the Canaanites and other inhabitants of Palestine, such as the Philistines from whom incidentally the name of Palestine was derived. Israelis claim that Palestine was the historic home of the Jews who were driven from it by force by the Babylonians, the Assyrians and lastly by the Romans in the year 132 AD. But they ignore the fact that it was only by similar force and violence that they had previously conquered Palestine in the year 1200 BC. They also brush aside the fact that by sheer brutal force they expelled the Palestinians from their ancestral home, Palestine, in 1948 and thereafter, established their state on the destruction and ruins of countless towns and villages.

M. KAHIL



Palestine is not the Jewish homeland because the Israelis conquered it like other conquerors who occupied Palestine, and left it. In other words, the conquest of Palestine in the year 1200 BC by Israelis was merely an episode in the history of that country just as the above-mentioned peoples conquered it in the past and left it.

Despite the above irrefutable historical facts concerning Palestine, and notwithstanding the Oslo accord of September 1993 and that of Cairo of May 1994, Israelis still maintain that Palestinian territory is part of the land of Israel.

This attitude is, in my opinion, hindering the smooth implementation of the above-mentioned accords. Thus, in practice and on the ground, it does not seem that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's policy differs much from that of the Likud policy and practice when the latter was holding the reins of power. Lands belonging to Palestinians are being confiscated, construction or fattening of settlements are being pursued relentlessly, killing, imprisoning and trying and condemning Palestinians

for resisting the occupation continue daily, curfews are being imposed and border crossings between Israel and the occupied territories are being shut to squeeze the Palestinians in a sort of ghetto and deprive their workers of the means of their livelihood.

Moreover, the Israelis, with their superiority complex, and arrogant attitude, treat the Palestinians with despise and contempt with the aim of humiliating them. Such attitude and practices have led and will continue to lead to resentments and hatred against the Israelis. No wonder then that some of the Palestinian youth will resort to extreme violence and suicidal attacks to vent their suppressed feelings of injustice and resentment.

All Israeli political, security and economic measures will be of no avail and will not put an end to the violent resistance of Palestinians unless Israel speedily withdraws from the Palestinian territory. Israeli leaders should put an end to procrastination and prevarication in the implementation of their accords with the Palestinians and concentrate instead on honest, sincere

and speedy implementation of those accords so as to withdraw Israeli army from the densely populated Palestinian territory. But they should not expect Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to be their watchdog to maintain peace and protect Israeli interests when the latter are not honouring their commitments and are treating Palestinians with humiliation and disdain.

One would expect Israeli leaders to have realised by now that they cannot keep land and have peace at the same time. They will have peace and security when all the Palestinian territory is returned to its rightful owners. There will be and there will remain Palestinian fighters who will continue to stoke the embers of fire as long as Israel does not recognise the national rights of the Palestinians including their right to establish their state.

Even if Israel succeeds to conclude peace treaties with all Arab states but does not recognise the national rights of the Palestinians in their country, Israel will never have peace and security neither in the occupied territories nor, I dare say, in Israel itself.

China-Britain deal on Hong Kong evokes memories

By David Schlesinger
Reuter

BEIJING — The deal China and Britain signed Friday to end a five-year row over Hong Kong's new airport brings the cycle of pacts and ruptures plaguing the handover of the British colony to Beijing into a new phase.

With less than two years to go before Hong Kong becomes part of China, agreement on the overall financing plan for the \$20 billion airport would appear to be very good news.

But similar optimism over the Hong Kong issue has been dashed before by subsequent vicious disagreements.

Sitting at the heart of the problem is mutual fear and mistrust compounded by misunderstandings, political analysts believe.

When Britain says it wants to leave Hong Kong with world-class infrastructure to face the next century, China says it is worried that London wants to suck its colony dry financially.

When London says it wants to give the people of Hong Kong as much say in their political future as possible, Beijing interprets the moves as subverting Chinese authority and going back on previous agreements.

While these disputes have been the hallmark of relations between China and Britain in the run-up to the 1997 handover of Hong Kong, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said on Thursday he wanted a new atmosphere to emerge.

"By working together in practical ways we can at last wear down the mutual suspicions and misunderstandings of the past, and build a more profound and realistic friendship for the 21st century," Xinhua news agency quoted him as saying.

Such sentiments have been expressed by both sides previously, however.

Even the airport issue itself appeared to be solved once and for all back in 1991, when John Major

came to Beijing to sign a "memorandum of understanding."

He became in the process the first Western head of government to visit China since the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

British diplomats insisted on Friday that the new pact would now finally break the deadlock. "This is a new agreement which will actually make it possible to move forward," said one envoy who requested anonymity.

But he made clear not every question had been answered.

"This is a very preliminary agreement," he said. "There are a lot of practical steps that have to follow it. We view it as a very positive basis for further cooperation that requires further practical steps."

China, for its part, maintained that the problems from 1991 until Friday were "all the fault of the British side."

"Originally, this question should have been settled at a very early stage," Zhou Nan, China's top official in Hong Kong, was quoted by official Chinese newspaper on Friday as saying.

"But as the British side for a long time not put forward a financing plan in accord with the memorandum of understanding and moreover brought extraneous issues into the negotiations, this question has been delayed time and again."

Negotiators experienced in dealing with China warned that Zhou's words meant that the remaining years until the 1997 handover would see Beijing continuing to press London for concessions on the details of the transfer of power.

"The Chinese prefer to have a general woolly agreement setting out principles that they can then interpret in their own way," said one lawyer with experience both in government and in private practice.

"There is no country on earth in which people spend so much time procuring that they are negotiating out of principles."

LETTERS

An appalling experience at Al Bashir hospital

EDITOR'S NOTE: A copy of this letter was sent to the Ministry of Health on Oct. 29, the day the letter was received, so that the ministry could give an official response to the complaints. No answer was received from the ministry up to this date.

To the Editor:

I HAVE to write and share an appalling experience that I went through on the morning of Oct. 29.

A friend of the family called just past midnight and asked us to take her mother to a hospital. Her mother had passed out suddenly and she did not know what to do. My brother and I rushed to their house and upon arriving we discovered that an ambulance was already there. The driver indicated that she will be taken to the Al Bashir Hospital.

When we arrived at the hospital, I was shocked, lack of help and cleanliness put aside, I could not believe the unprofessional conduct of the staff. All they did, doctor and nurse, was to try to revive the patient with some sort of an inhaler. I do not claim to be a health professional, but I do think an initial check of vital statistics was in order, being the acceptable practice in an emergency room world-wide. After administering the inhaler, the staff left

assuring the relatives that the patient will wake up shortly. When 30 minutes passed without improvement, the patient's son approached the doctor, who seemed annoyed to be disturbed during a chummy conversation with a person who did not look like an hospital staff. Not wanting to be deprived of his socialising and smoke time, the doctor sent a nurse to take the patient's blood pressure. What a practice. The nurse informed the doctor of the results, 120 over 170 as I seem to recollect, he seemed unconvinced. Reminding you this was in the emergency room, he approached the patient, cigarette still in hand and took another blood pressure test on the opposite arm using a different sphygmomanometer. When he discovered the same results, he muttered "take her to observation," and he returned to his chum, cigarette still in hand.

We stood dumbfounded for a while, then the patient's son asked where the observation unit was. The "doctor" pointed to outside the "emergency" room and left. Then I had to ask, "and how do we get an unconscious person there?" The doctor then, annoyed, asked a staff member who seemed just as bothered, to get us a wheel chair. Everyone managed to get the patient off the torn and filthy emergency cot, onto the wheelchair, into observations and onto a filthy cot, with dirty blood stained, I.V. needles littering the floor. It was then that I knew I'd had enough and had to leave or loudly speak my mind and cause a scene.

Does the Minister of Health ever visit, or inspect those facilities? An investigation into the standard operating procedure, cleanliness and professionalism of the Al Bashir is in order. I had heard many horrible stories about Al

Bashir Hospital before. But I have always ignored them as hearsay. After this experience, I could not keep it inside. I am calling for an answer from the Ministry of Health.

Nadim Al Jaouni,
Jabal Al Hussein,
Amman.

Innocent till proven guilty

To the Editor:

In your report "Bomb explodes at Amman liquor shop" (Jordan Times, Nov. 5) I was quoted as saying "the blast may have been the work of religious extremists..."

I would like to clarify that on no account did I attribute responsibility for the explosion to any party. An investigation to find the culprits has been instigated by the police. Until they have revealed concrete evidence as to who may have been behind the incident, I will not apportion blame on anyone.

Samir Fakhoury,
Amman.

Violence r Somalia as sets depart

ALGERIA — A group of 12 Algerian soldiers were killed and 15 wounded in a clash with Somali forces in the north-eastern region of the country, a spokesman for the Algerian army said Saturday.

The clash took place in the town of Tindouf, which is a major base for the Algerian army. The Algerian army has been fighting against the Somali forces since the start of the conflict in 1991.

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Violence rages in Somalia as U.N. sets departure date

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — As the United Nations set the departure date for its costly and controversial mission in Somalia, the violence that the world body tried to curb in the ravaged Horn of Africa country was the order of the day.

Inside the heavily fortified compound of the U.N. operation in Somalia in Mogadishu, workers rioted on Saturday to protest against the dismissal of 500 colleagues by the U.S. construction firm Brown Root.

It was not immediately known why Brown Root, hired by UNOSOM to build and repair roads, fired the Somalis.

Near the central town of Baidoa, once known as the "city of death" because of its legacy as a town where children died like flies at the peak of a famine in 1991, inter-clan fighting raged.

No reports of casualties reached Mogadishu but a spokesman for Indian soldiers stationed in the area said he feared fighting between clans there would spill into the volatile town.

With guns as common as eggs in the bazaars and warring clans roaming the streets of Mogadishu in "specials" — pick-up trucks with heavy machine-guns mounted on the back — life has long been a daily gamble for the citizens of the capital.

The daily shootings and frequent pitched battles between the clans have forced the withdrawal of most relief workers from Somalia, but their arrival en masse along with the U.N. troops in late 1992 did avert mass starvation threatened by drought.

That was the U.N. troops' primary mission, but they became sucked into the violence.

More than 100 U.N. soldiers have been killed over the past two years, and American troops who spearheaded the operation withdrew last March after 36 of their men were killed. They put a price on Gen. Aideed's head, but never succeeded in capturing him.

The reduced U.N. presence in the country is meanwhile costing \$5.7 million a day, with the troops' main task now their own protection.

U.N. contingents have already pulled quietly out of a number of provincial cities. U.N. military spokesman Major Richard McDonald said in Mogadishu recently.

The two-to-four-month timetable for the withdrawal of the remaining troops, mostly from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Malaysia, means they will

start returning before the end of the year.

Leaders of 12 clans are currently holding a "national reconciliation conference" in Mogadishu but observers dismiss this as a farce, as none of their opponents is taking part in the discussions. U.N. officials had hoped the talks would be broad-based and lead to a government of national unity.

In Mogadishu, the United Nations tightened security on Saturday after a faction loyal to warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed launched a savage verbal attack on a U.N. envoy for criticising its peace efforts.

Witnesses said the number of Pakistani troops visible in the streets of Mogadishu was high as UNOSOM attempted a show of force to discourage any possible attacks by militia loyal to the powerful Aideed.

But Somali faction leaders said they planned no such attacks on the U.N. Victor Gbeho, special representative of the U.N. secretary-general, has attacked the decision by General Aideed's supporters to hold a reconciliation meeting in the absence of Gen. Aideed's blood rival, Ali Mahdi Mohammed.

Gen. Aideed's faction said on Friday that Mr. Gbeho was "usurping the prerogative of the Somali political leadership to decide for themselves on the destiny of their country."

"The special representatives pointed out that a conference without the participation of all the factions would be a recipe for continued strife and violence. He is simply wrong," the faction said.

At the U.N. in New York on Friday, the Security Council called for a secure and orderly withdrawal by March 31, 1995.

About 15,000 U.N. troops now remain out of a force which at one point grew to a strength of more than 29,000.

They were first deployed in 1992 to rescue Somalis from the famine and chaos in which hundreds of thousands died and more than a million fled to neighbouring countries after the downfall of president Mohammed Siad Barre.

An orderly withdrawal for the U.N. force is by no means assured since Somali warlords who have repeatedly thwarted efforts to establish a transitional government may try to loot departing U.N. forces.

The secretary-general said the withdrawal would take between 60 and 120 days, depending on security conditions.

Algerian troops kill bomber, 22 militants

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Security forces killed the man who orchestrated a cemetery bomb attack, which left four children dead, and 33 other armed Islamic militants in a "raid in western Algeria," a newspaper report said Saturday.

The daily El Watan identified the man behind the bombing in Mostaganem in the southwest only as a doctor in his 40s. It said the raid was reported by the military commander in the region to a delegation of women who had gone there from the capital on Thursday.

There was no official confirmation of the report Saturday morning.

The paper said the other 33 Islamic militants, who included one woman, were killed in an operation in the Hachachta forest, about 30 kilometres from the cemetery.

The blast there Tuesday, the first directly to target children, killed four young Muslim boys and wounded 18 others during a ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the start of Algeria's war for independence.

The cemetery attack has been blamed by some on armed Islamic radicals who have been waging a campaign of armed insurgency against the government since it annulled elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win in January 1992.

Talks between the FIS and the government broke down last month, but the FIS dis-

claimed and condemned the attack. Exiled FIS leader Abdul Baki Sabraoui in France alleged that Algerian security forces were responsible.

Tension further rose when 17 Islamic radicals were killed Tuesday and Wednesday by security forces after an unnamed negotiator was shot dead.

The Algerian conflict has left between 10,000 and 12,000 people dead since the cycle of violence erupted more than two-and-a-half years ago.

The United States expressed deep concern Friday over the continuing violence in Algeria and called for dialogue between the government and Islamic militants.

"We do believe that there are ways in which you can expand the political dialogue and expand the circle of contacts without including those who espouse terrorism as a way of addressing the conflict," State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said.

"The violence that continues in Algeria has been of very deep concern to us, not only because they are directed against westerners and foreigners ... but also because they've been so fundamentally damaging to the people of Algeria."

The United States had called on repeated occasions for discussions between the government and the FIS.

"We don't believe it is impossible for them to have that type of dialogue with those who reject" violence.

Lawmakers draw clear pro- and anti-treaty lines

(Continued from page 1)

their national efforts to achieve socio-economic development and improve the living conditions in a just and balanced manner," he said.

"In the light of the regional competition expected in the coming era of peace we are in a need of courageous and frank revision of our administrative system with a view to raising its efficiency and we need a national programme to serve the country in the peace era marked with openness on the part of the executive authorities to the Jordanian public."

On behalf of the Democratic Bloc in Parliament, I declare approval of the draft law on the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and support the Foreign Affairs Committee's report and recommendations in this respect."

Mohammad Odeh Njadat (Southern Bedouins)

The best ending to war or conflict is peace, and Jordan, through signing the peace treaty with Israel, has arrived at peace and secured its rights, said Mr. Njadat.

"I bless the treaty and wholeheartedly support His Majesty King Hussein's steps and those of the government in accomplishing this major achievement for the Kingdom," he said.

Referring to Palestine, Mr. Njadat said Jordan has more than any other Arab country extended help to the Palestinians, and therefore "we cannot allow any one to try to outbid us in this respect or to tamper with our principled stands."

"We all should stand in the same trench and speak one language aimed at handling our own affairs with dialogue and with constructive means," Mr. Njadat said.

Mifteh Lawzi (Amman-Jubeiha)

The peace treaty with Israel was a natural result of the Madrid conference and the negotiations which preceded the signing of the treaty came with full authorisation from the Jordanian people, said Mr. Lawzi.

Both the National Charter and Parliament have approved of Jordan's steps towards reaching peace with Israel and authorised the government to pursue efforts to attain that goal, he said.

"Therefore this treaty is a natural outcome of the series of developments and a good result achieved in the midst of regional and international circumstances," he added.

Ibrahim Samara Zoubi (Razatha and Bani Kanafeh)

Mr. Samara spoke on behalf of Aref Bataineh, Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Jamal Khreisheh, Nawaf Al Qadhi, Mohammad Njadat, Salem Zawaideh and Khalid Al Ajarmeh.

The peace treaty has enhanced Jordan's national identity by asserting the Kingdom's geographic boundaries and returned the lost lands and water resources," Mr. Zoubi said. "Furthermore, the treaty has retained and respected Jordan's historic rights in Jerusalem's holy places."

"Having examined all the articles of the treaty, I declare my full backing of it and to King Hussein's steps towards peace."

Fawzi Zoubi — (Ramtha)

Mr. Zoubi defended the peace treaty saying the Kingdom did not compromise on any of its rights. "Jordan has paid a heavy price all the past years for adopting pan-Arab stands," Mr. Zoubi said. The country had only reaped a siege of its economy and political isolation, he added.

Noting that the Palestinians chose their way and are

pursuing their own path, Mr. Zoubi said that in the face of the situation Jordan found in the peace treaty a way out of the present predicament as it ensured the return of all Jordanian rights.

Following the Palestinians' option to follow a separate path, Jordan found itself politically isolated and realised that many things were going on behind the scene and that proposed solutions could be adopted at the Kingdom's expense," he said.

Some had wanted Jordan to serve as a mere pressure card but not assuming a meaningful role while others had wanted to see the end of this country," he added.

"All these have motivated Jordan to follow the path of peace and conclude the treaty which ensures the return of all its rights," he said.

Through this treaty, he said, Jordan has succeeded in putting an end to Israel's expansionist designs and ended the plot which aimed at creating from Jordan a substitute homeland for the Palestinians.

The fact that Israeli farm-lands still exist on Jordanian territory does not mean that Jordan's rights are compromised, he said, noting that Jordanians own lands in neighbouring Arab states and they have to obtain permits to cultivate them and that other Arab nationals own land in Jordan and they continue to develop their property.

Through this treaty Jordan has opened the door for investments in the country and for economic projects which means more trade with the world, more tourism and an end of sufferings for many people, he said.

"I hereby declare my full support for the treaty," he concludes.

Mifteh Ruheimi (Jerash)

"This treaty came as a fruit of national efforts exerted by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and therefore it deserves support and appreciation from all honourable people in Jordan," Mr. Ruheimi said.

He said he expected the treaty to open the way for Jordan to receive international economic assistance and an end to the people's sufferings.

Ahmad Kasasbeh (Karak) (Islamist)

The treaty can only be described as one facet of Israel's hostile acts against the nation and a new form of struggle for destiny between the Arabs and the Jews, Mr. Kasasbeh said.

Charging that the treaty would end Jordan's ties with other Arab and Muslim countries, he said it would also deny Jordan its other legitimate rights and those of the Arab and Muslim people. He said that the treaty was a violation of the first article of the Jordanian Constitution which states that Jerusalem and the West Bank are part of Jordanian territory and cannot be ceded to Israel.

Referring to article eight of the treaty, Mr. Kasasbeh said that it provides for the Palestinians to be settled in lands other than Palestine.

He said Israel was preparing to brainwash future Arab generations making plans to employ Arab youth as labourers for Israel's benefit. He demanded that Parliament condemn the treaty.

Hamed Abu Jamus (Amman — Marka)

Voicing support for the treaty, Mr. Abu Jamus said that for the first time in its history Israel recognises its borders with Jordan. "This is a great achievement and gain for Jordan supported by the United States, the mightiest power on earth," he said. "By scrutinising the different articles of the treaty one can see that it ensured the rights of Jordan in land and water

and secured its boundaries," he added. At the same time the treaty did not infringe on the Palestinian people's rights, Mr. Abu Jamus said.

Not only did the treaty bury Israel's old concept of creating a substitute Palestinian homeland in Jordan but also reaffirmed the Kingdom's sovereignty and opened the door for the Kingdom to play a leading role in the region, said the deputy.

Ibrahim Zeid Keilani (Amman) (Islamist)

Dr. Keilani demanded that Parliament reject the peace treaty with Israel. He quoted the Holy Quran as banning Muslims from concluding peace with the usurpers of Arab territory, and merging Israel's economy with that of the Arab and Muslim economies.

Citing historian Tweinbi, Dr. Keilani said Israel subsists on two pillars — divisions of Arab countries and foreign assistance.

He predicted that the Arabs would not remain divided and the foreign assistance to Israel would not last.

Dr. Keilani considered the treaty with Israel as marking the beginning of the history of the Jewish state.

Dr. Keilani accused the government of violating pan-Arab and Islamic principles and said that by concluding the agreement the government said that it has restored Jordan's rights in land and water but this is a very narrow-minded regional outlook, he said.

He said Jordan should not view the situation from the point of view of the Sykes-Picot treaty.

The treaty had been concluded while the Arabs are at total disarray and divided, Dr. Keilani said. The treaty benefits the enemy alone and overlooks Arab and Islamic rights in holy Jerusalem.

He also criticised the treaty for providing for joint security and for combating terrorism and for "depriving the refugees of the right to return to their homeland."

Nader Thuheirat (Koura)

Voicing support for the peace treaty, Mr. Thuheirat said that had it not been for the wise leadership of King Hussein Jordan could not have reached this stage and regained all its rights.

Speaking in his name and on behalf of Tawfiq Kreishan, Ali Al Shatti, Mohammad Howaimel and Salem Zawaideh, Mr. Thuheirat said the treaty does not in any manner impinge on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. Nor does it cause damage to Jordan's relations with the other Arab countries, he said.

Stressing that Jordan does not condone acts of terrorism, Mr. Thuheirat said the Kingdom supports the rights of all groups to express their free opinion. But he said that Israel should abide by all international treaties, including a ban on the use of mass destruction weapons.

"We share in the fear of economic relations with Israel in view of the fact that Israel is much more advanced than Jordan in technical and economic fields and we fear that Israel will impose its hegemony on the Jordanian economy. Therefore we should take measures to protect the national economy when concluding any economic agreement with Israel," he said.

The government should exert all its efforts to ensure the return of the refugees to their Palestinian lands in line with U.N. resolutions, he said. "We refuse to see Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital and we demand that the Holy City be returned in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and we demand that Israel continue to respect Jordan's role in the holy places," he said.



Islamic Action Front deputies try to make a Lower House of Parliament (Photo by Youssef Allan)

House begins debate

(Continued from page 1)

card so that they can strengthen their position in their talks with Israel?" Mr. Habashneh said.

The strongest response to the opposition came from President of the 17-member National Action Front Abdul Hadi Majali, who said Jordan had received nothing but ingratitude for its calls for Arab coordination.

Referring to the Kingdom's support for the Palestinians, which included providing them with an umbrella for entering the Madrid talks, Mr. Majali said it was the Palestinians who went their own way and abandoned coordination with the Kingdom.

"Instead of receiving thanks for our position, we

were blamed," Mr. Majali said.

Criticising what he called empty slogans that do not recognise reality, Mr. Majali said: "Those who speak of the national and Islamic dimensions" are expecting from Jordan more than it can provide and are being oblivious to the realities of the day which prove that there is no unified Arab stand or position.

Supporters of the peace process also attempted to refute opposition claims that peace with Israel will expose Arab culture to Israeli domination, saying the Arab and Muslim culture is too strong to fall under Israeli cultural domination.

Those deputies also said the Kingdom has not abandoned the cause of refugees as their future will be discussed in accordance with international law, noting that the PLO has postponed discussion of the issue.

While opponents of the treaty focused more on ideological reasons for opposing the treaty, its supporters called for viewing the accord from realistic perspectives and in terms of what it achieved for the Kingdom.

Opponents spoke of Arab ties and Islamic teachings, while proponents of the treaty emphasised that the Jordanian interests should be the yardstick against which it is measured in light of Arab division and lack of appreciation for the efforts the Kingdom has made in its pursuit of better Arab relations.



TOMBS DAMAGED: Egyptians walk through the rubble next to the Temple of Seti in the King's Valley after torrential rains overflooded several Pharaonic sites in the Luxor area, including the Tomb of Tutankhamun and the Temple of Seti (see page 12) (AFP photo)

Egyptian flood victims buried

(Continued from page 12)

into flames during Wednesday's heavy storm.

The fire swept down the river bed, engulfing houses, a mosque and a large grain factory and leaving a black scar running through the town before pouring into the nearby fields.

Government officials say the houses were built after the fuel tanks were installed nearly 20 years ago.

Residents say they were there first and accuse the government of playing down the tragedy because it was a fault for building the fuel tanks so close to them.

"If one hundred houses are

destroyed, they will say it is 10. If 500 people die, they will say it is 100. They won't admit anything," complained Mohammad Mahmoud Kharafallah as he waded through the mud-filled foundations of his house.

Two hundred workers toiled Saturday with picks to clear flood debris from the ancient tombs in the Valley of the Kings, one of Egypt's finest Pharaonic sites and a top tourist attraction.

Stones and sand left by storms blocked most of the entrance to the tomb of a top official in the 19th dynasty, which was closed to visitors.

Inside was as granite tomb almost completely under water. Mud puddles formed outside where water had been pumped out of the tomb and a deep hole gouged out by the rains marked the bottom of a stairway.

"Fortunately the tomb is not decorated and the empty sarcophagus is made of granite," according to an Egyptian antiquities official, Sabri Abdul Aziz.

"In ancient times, the tomb was regularly flooded and it was submerged in water when it was first discovered," he said.

94 killed in Kabul battles

(Continued from page 12)

the other side of the Kabul river.

Smoke from a huge fire in the vicinity of Babar Gardens was still billowing into the sky Saturday, reportedly from nearby buildings of the former state-owned heavy industrial estate called Jangalak, controlled by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction.

Skirmishing between the frontline positions of pro-Rabbani troops and Wahdat continued Saturday in front of the Mohammadia Mosque just west of Dehmadaz Square, where sporadic fire from small arms and recoil-

less rifles were heard. Pro-Rabbani troops said they were trying to blast a small pocket of Wahdat fighters from the Ghazi High School, which is situated in front of the blue-domed mosque.

At Kabul University defending pro-Rabbani troops said there had been no Friday offensive against their positions although they came under heavy weapons bombardment.

The university library continues to suffer the ravages of bombardment and looting of books.

Two civilians seen stuffing volumes of fairy tales and

commentaries of The Holy Quran inside their clothes claimed the books were for reading at home.

"If we want to fuel our winter fires we will take the Russian-language books," they said.

In the wake of Friday's fighting Kabul was mostly calm Saturday. Pro-Rabbani gunners harassed Wahdat with intermittent heavy weapons' fire but the capital was spared of heavy rocketing by Hezb forces.

The Rabbani government is expected to respond soon to the latest United Nations peace proposal. U.N. envoy, Mahmoud Mestiri outlined the plan during recent visits to Afghanistan, where he met with faction leaders.

Ciller pledges help for PNA

(Continued from page 12)

Palestinian elections to a self-rule council.

The elections will mark the next stage of Palestinian autonomy, which was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

Palestinians laid on a red-carpet reception for Ms. Ciller but sudden heavy rains washed out plans for an outdoor ceremony by a guard of honour.

Instead Mr. Arafat greeted Ms. Ciller at the door of his headquarters, and the visitors

were rushed indoors where a band played the Turkish and Palestinian anthems.

Turkish and Palestinian flags fluttered over the streets leading to Mr. Arafat's seaside headquarters. Banners with welcome messages in Turkish were strung across lamp posts.

Ms. Ciller arrived in Israel on Thursday for a three-day visit. The first Turkish head of government to visit the Jewish state, Ms. Ciller signed accords on telecommunications and the fight against terrorism.

After Israel, she was to travel on to Egypt.

Assad, Hrawi

(Continued from page 12)

very careful not to present his own positions," he said.

Mr. Bouez told Lebanese parliament members that Israel and Syria are still far apart on the timetable for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

He said Israel was ready to withdraw in stages over four years while Syria wants the withdrawal to be completed in a few months.

"It seems like Clinton promised to work to solve this matter, and may be a (pullout period) of two or two-and-a-half years looms," he said.

Arabs need to pursue reforms to benefit from peace, experts say

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Peace will likely attract investment to the Middle East after decades of capital flight but such a flow will remain slow without adequate economic reforms in the region, experts said Friday.

Some Arab League members have already embarked on reforms to tackle chronic economic problems but the pace of reform has been slow while other members have yet to do so because of internal conflicts.

"It is natural that investments will increase when there is peace and stability but the increase will be limited without a proper investment climate and a sound economy," a Gulf-based Arab economist told AFP.

Investors, whether Arabs or non-Arabs, naturally look for security for their investment. But they also want to make profit. And you can not take profits in a country suffering from a slow economy, debt and high inflation while investments face the spectre of nationalisation at any time," he said.

Economic problems coupled with strong government intervention, inadequate financial policies, red tape and political instability have scared away local and foreign investors in the past decades in most Arab nations.

As a result, the region suf-

fered from one of the worst capital drainages in history, with overseas Arab assets accumulating to more than \$650 billion at the end of 1992. Most are based in the United States and other Western countries in the form of stocks, real estate and bank deposits.

Economic woes in the region have persisted although the 22-member Arab League has received more than \$370 billion in aid and other forms of cash flow over the past 25 years, according to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Inflation was as high as 28.6 per cent in 1992 and foreign debt exceeded \$155 billion while most members suffered from budget and trade deficits.

But reforms in some members over the past few years have produced results although they were criticised as slow and insufficient by the Abu Dhabi-based AMF, the Arab League's main financial organisation.

According to official figures, the Arab gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5.2 per cent annually in real terms between 1990 and 1992 compared with 1.9 per cent between 1988 and 1989. The growth occurred despite negative growth rates in Kuwait, Iraq and other oil producers due to the Gulf

war. The budget deficit in non-oil Arab countries was cut to \$6.28 billion in 1992 from \$10 billion in 1987. This was in contrast with Gulf oil producers, whose deficit increased to \$34.7 billion from \$29.8 billion in that same period due to large payments for the anti-Iraq coalition.

The figures showed the cut in the deficit was mainly due to a rise in revenues to \$38.7 billion from \$26.6 billion. Exports by the non-oil group also surged to \$39 billion from \$25.1 billion.

Although their trade balance continued to suffer from a deficit the overall balance of payment recorded a surplus of \$6.44 billion in 1992 compared with \$1.2 billion in 1987. This was due to the increase in exports and in capital inflow, mainly remittances and aid.

"It has become evident that economic reforms are the only way to achieve prosperity in the Arab World as it has the suitable environment, including cheap labour and abundant energy," a Gulf bank manager said.

"The countries which have embarked on such reforms should accelerate them and the remaining members should start reforms. I believe reforms should cover all sectors, including privatisation, stock markets, taxation

systems, investment regulations, the infrastructure and administrative measures," he added.

Only 10 Arab states have official stock markets but most of them have remained closed to foreign investors and lack diverse financial instruments.

Around 1,100 banks and companies trade their shares in the region, with their market capitalisation standing at nearly \$50 billion, a fraction of the total world capitalisation of more than \$9 trillion.

The AMF, which is helping Arabs in their reform programmes, has embarked on a project to link their stock markets to attract capital. But it believes member states must first develop their markets.

"Despite economic achievements made in some Arab countries due to the reform programmes and efforts being exerted in others, our stock markets still need a comprehensive structural development," it said in a recent study.

"There is a need to redress financial policies and develop stock markets in the Arab World in order to create a framework capable of attracting national and foreign investment and stimulating the private sector," the AMF stressed.

Yeltsin names liberal Chubais as first deputy premier

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Saturday appointed Anatoly Chubais, an outspoken reformer who has spearheaded Russia's bold privatisation programme, as a first deputy prime minister.

A presidential spokesman said that Mr. Chubais, 39, who previously was a deputy prime minister and the head of State Property Committee, had been released from both these jobs.

It was not clear what responsibilities Mr. Chubais would have in his new position.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin already has one first deputy, Oleg Soskovets, who is in overall control of economy but mainly concentrates on developing national industries.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman said that Mr. Soskovets would remain in his current position.

Mr. Chubais is the last survivor from the "reformist team" of Yegor Gaidar, which Mr. Yeltsin had brought to power in late 1991 to launch an economic reform intended to create a Western-style market economy in post-Soviet Russia.

In that team Mr. Chubais was responsible for privatisation — the biggest-ever state property sell-off in which millions of Russians were given a chance to become shareholders.

The appointment of Mr. Chubais, whose agency has become a symbol of Russia's struggle towards capitalism, is sure to enrage Mr. Yeltsin's conservative opponents.

Mr. Yeltsin's decision bringing a key liberal to the second highest position in the government clearly indicated the president's desire to stress his commitment to reform and encourage Russian liberals alarmed by recent cabinet changes.

Pressure mounts on Japan to cut official red tape

TOKYO (R) — From banks to retailers, Japanese companies are joining a growing clamour for deregulation of the country's economy — for once putting many domestic and foreign businessmen in the same corner.

On Friday, banking sources said leading Japanese commercial banks had given the finance ministry a lengthy list of demands for deregulation to improve prospects for profits.

Meanwhile, some domestic interests are urging the government to speed up the timetable for a mid-term deregulation plan to be unveiled next March. Isamu Miyazaki, Daiwa Research Institute chairman told Reuters.

Mr. Miyazaki was a key member of a panel advising then-prime minister Morihiro Hosokawa on deregulation last year.

The government aims to introduce a broad range of deregulatory measures over a five-year period, but proponents of faster change want them in three years.

Deregulation has been a buzzword in both economic and political circles here since Mr. Hosokawa's reformist coalition ended nearly four decades of rule by the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in August 1993.

However, real progress during Mr. Hosokawa administration was limited. And with the LDP now back in power along with its former arch-rival, the Socialists, doubts persist over how far and how fast deregulation will proceed.

"I don't think that (Prime Minister Tomiichi) Murayama's cabinet is enthusiastic about deregulation," said Mr. Miyazaki, who has been tipped by media to head a private policy group advising Mr. Murayama to be set up later this year.

"But the issues are getting more concrete and they directly concern the interests of both specific industries and ministries, so (making progress) would be a problem for

Rich states to hammer out new debt terms for poor

PARIS (R) — The Paris Club of wealthy government creditors will meet in the French capital this month to figure out just how generous they will be in writing off debts for the world's poorest countries, club sources said Friday.

One source said some would press for certain nations to have up to 80 per cent of their official debts cancelled — even more than the two-thirds write-off the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations agreed at their Naples summit in July.

However, while there is broad agreement among the club's 18 permanent members of offering more than the present 50 per cent debt write-offs to the poor, there is a lot of hard diplomatic bargaining to do on which countries may be eligible for the most generous terms, he added.

There is also a good deal of technical work to be done.

The G-7 endorsed a long-standing Franco-British proposal to extend debt reductions for the poorest countries to two thirds of what was due from the one half currently on offer.

But some club members are pushing for an agreement that at least some countries, if not all those currently eligible for the club's most generous deals — known as Tródad terms — get even more than that in an effort to try to break the cycle of debt and poverty in the Third World.

Chirac seen more interventionist and protectionist than Balladur

PARIS (R) — Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, who announced his candidacy for the French presidency Friday, is regarded as more interventionist and protectionist than Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, his main rival on the right.

Political analysts say Mr. Chirac has no deeply-held economic philosophy having been both a privatising liberal prime minister in the mid-1980s and a promoter of state-driven high technology industries during an earlier stint as premier in the mid-1970s.

However, recent statements show he is sceptical of European monetary union, advocates greater state aid and protection for agriculture, and believes the government should give the fight for jobs absolute priority.

Speaking at a conference in Paris on Oct. 22, he said of the Maastricht treaty on European political, economic and monetary union: "On the essential aspect of a single currency, it appears certain that it is inapplicable."

Noting that Britain and Germany had promised to give their parliaments the final say, Mr. Chirac said

France should hold a referendum before agreeing to enter the final stage of a single currency.

A former agriculture minister and supporter of France's farm lobby, he made hostility to the GATT world trade talks a major issue in 1993 parliamentary elections. But he eventually backed the deal negotiated by Mr. Balladur after France won improved terms for its cereals exports.

In a manifesto-style book last June setting out his policy for "a new France," Mr. Chirac wrote: "Fighting unemployment is not just one priority among others; it is the absolute priority to which everything must be subordinated."

"Promoting employment is at least as important as defending the currency, mastering inflation, reducing public deficits or the balance of external accounts," he said.

Mr. Chirac said France had for too long considered employment as the result of its economic policy instead of the aim.

He proposed several measures to accelerate the economic recovery and create jobs,

including major public works projects, tax cuts and a reduction in social security payroll levies.

Without mentioning Mr. Balladur's policy of keeping the currency steady against the mark, he said: "The solidity of our currency makes it possible today to anticipate the necessary reduction in interest rates."

"Let us not forget that the franc's value rests above all on the power and thus the growth of our economy," he added.

Since Mr. Balladur gave the Bank of France its independence on monetary policy in January, the central bank is intended to be free of pressure from politicians over interest rates.

Mr. Chirac gave only vague indications of how he would finance his proposals, saying experts should study a general levy on all income, higher value added tax or a tax on pollution.

Mr. Chirac's aides say that while his rhetoric tends to be nationalistic, in the tradition of his mentor, general Charles de Gaulle, he has in practice promoted European integration.

Oman seeks \$2.6b in investment

DUBAI (R) — Oman is seeking \$2.6 billion of local and foreign investments to finance industrial, agriculture and infrastructure projects, the official Oman News Agency (ONA) Friday quoted Mahmud Bin Ali Al Jarwani, executive president of the Muscat stock exchange, as saying.

It said he told a news conference Oman needed more than one billion riyals (\$2.6 billion) to finance the projects.

ONA did not say how Oman planned to raise the funds it sought. Mr. Jarwani said projects needing finance included an \$8 billion LNG project, a \$6 billion gas pipeline to India and an \$3 billion riyal power project in the Al Manah area.

Oman has two major gas projects, an advanced LNG scheme estimated to cost between \$6 billion and \$9 billion, aimed mainly at the Asian market, and a deep-water pipeline to India that is estimated to cost more than \$5 billion.

Mr. Jarwani said Oman "offers preferential incentives to attract local and foreign investors."

IMF praises Lithuania

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a \$201 million loan for Lithuania to help the Baltic country further reform its economy and bring down inflation.

"Lithuania has made impressive progress in building a modern market economy in a difficult market environment," the IMF said in a news release announcing the loan.

The money will be made available over the next three years under the IMF's extended fund facility.

IMF praises Lithuania

Lithuania is aiming to cut inflation to 20 per cent in 1995 from an estimated 71 per cent this year by keeping a tight grip on the government budget and pegging the value of its currency at four litai per dollar, the IMF said.

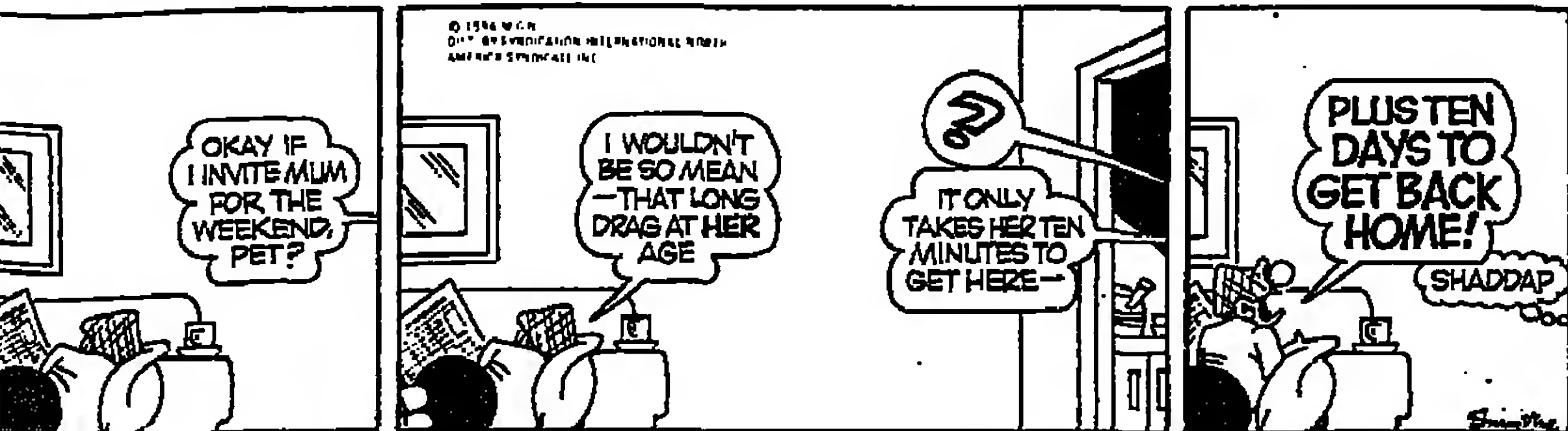
Economic growth is projected to increase to 6-8 per cent next year from an estimated 1-2 per cent in 1994, it added.

"The authorities' objectives are ambitious, and their programme is a strong one, with a high probability of success," the IMF said.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



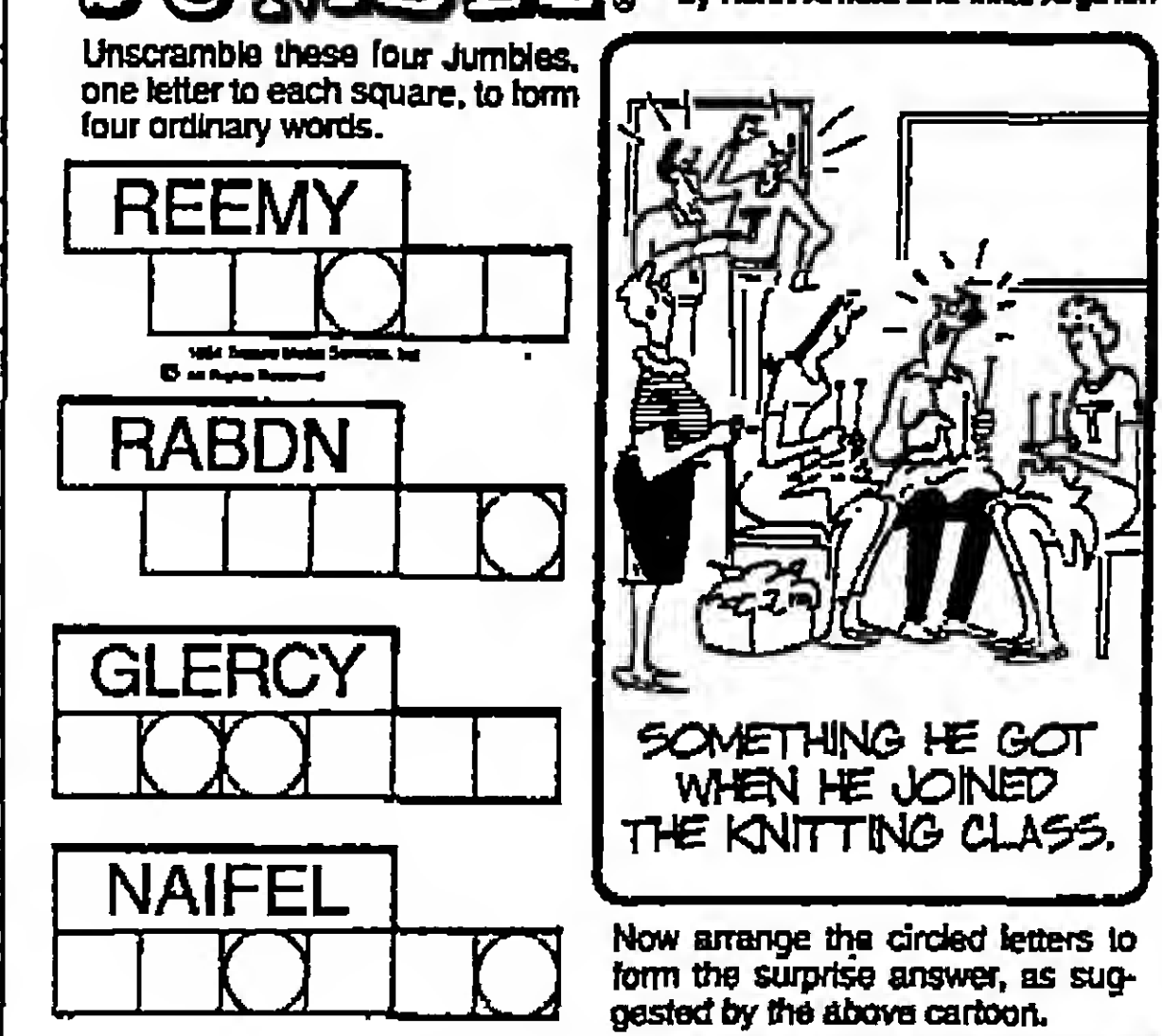
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Print answer here: THE (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: DELVE BORAX EMBRYO SLEEPY
Answer: What the weightlifter found at his favorite hangout — BAR BELLES

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good Moon trine Neptune and Uranus day for you to coordinate your efforts with other persons in projects that are vital to your success and happiness. Improve the value of your property.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) It would be wise to permit a good friend to help you solve a personal problem. Don't spend more money now than you can afford on any items.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study your position in life and know if any changes would be wise to make. Any public duties should be handled cleverly by you today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go after personal goals in a positive fashion and you gain them easily now. Skidstep one who wants to slow up your progress to your success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Confer with an expert who can help you gain a personal aim. Relax at home tonight with your mate and you will keep out of trouble.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Listening and following ideas of associates brings good results now. Take the right steps to improve your health and you will feel great for a long while.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Know what your greatest

aims are and go after them in a positive manner. Don't waste time on trivial matters when there are more important ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have fine ideas that should be put in operation without delay. Come to a better understanding with a close tie and you will be very happy.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The mood at home could be changing rapidly, so be sure that you at least are steadfast. Be careful of strangers so you won't be in danger.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A better understanding about regular routines with associates can be reached now. Steer clear of trouble situations today and tonight.

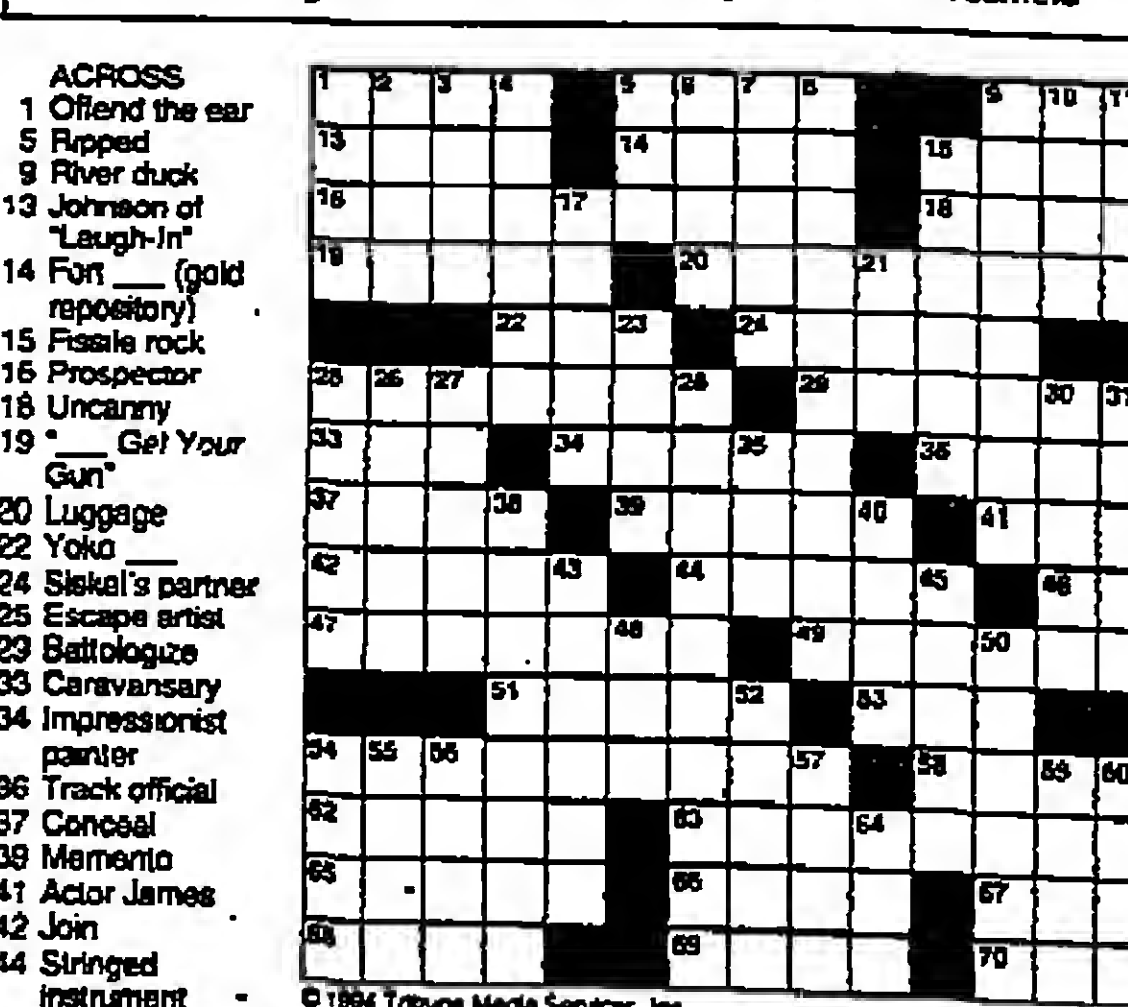
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Put more zip into your regular activities, and accomplish more. Don't take your mate so much for granted and you will have much love and affection.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Go after your aims in a more sure and up-to-date way and gain them. Planning new activities for the future is wise and valuable for you now.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study new systems that will help you advance in your line of endeavour. Take no chances with your reputation or you may damage it beyond repair.

Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

THE Daily Crossword by Ronald G. Hirschfeld



Across:
1 Offend the ear
3 Roped
5 River duck
13 Johnson of "Laugh-in"
14 Fort (gold repository)
15 Fossil rock
16 Prospector
18 Uncanny
19 "Get Your Gun"
20 Luggage
22 Yoko
24 Sibelius' partner
25 Escape artist
27 Ballotage
33 Caravanary
34 Impressionist painter
36 Track official
37 Canoeist
39 Memoir
41 Actor James
42 Jon
43 Stringed instrument
46 Monogram of a poet
47 "William Tell" composer
49 Children's nurses
51 Sleigh rider
53 "Helter Skelter"
54 Movie's second time around
58 Cultural character
62 "grade
63 "Jack and the Beanstalk"
65 Springfield
66 Enslaved
67 Lamb
68 "Three Live"
69 Cigar and Onion
DOWN
1 Tabula
2 Elms' middle name
3 Supple
4 Sentence ender
5 Bowing result
6 Obligation
7 Scoundrel
8 Fair
9 Affectedly dramatic
10 Rabbie (TV)
11 "I cannot tell"
12 Dregs
13 Cover
17 Jetsu majestical
21 Asian holiday
22 about
23 Bee collector
26 Trump (bridge bid)
27 Modules
28 Nestled
30 Name in violins
31 Rib
32 Sea eagles
35 Yule
38 Diminished
40 Applaud
43 Theater district
45 Poker stakes
46 Comp. dir
48 Talk city
52 Tale (dit)
54 Siam's Shesha
55 Wicked
56 Uncommon
57 Cardinal point
58 Nimbus
59 Madam
61 Three-headed card game
64 Once called

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 3/11/94	New York Close Date 4/11/94
Sterling Pound	1.6175	1.6160
Deutsche Mark	1.5187	1.5140
Swiss Franc	1.5680	1.5673
French Franc	5.2075	5.1915
Japanese Yen	97.73	97.45
European Currency Unit	1.2550	1.2563

1 USD Per SDR
* European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Source: Jordan Times

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.43	5.75	6.12
Sterling Pound	5.50	5.57	6.25	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.93	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	5.50	5.57	6.00	6.43
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	5.15	5.16	5.31	5.62
European Currency Unit	5.46	5.51	6.08	6.60

Interest rate for 6 months currency 1.5% (Libor 1.00-0.80 or equivalent)

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1176	1.1232
Deutsche Mark	0.4569	0.4592
Swiss Franc	0.5458	0.5485
French Franc	0.1332	0.1339
Japanese Yen	0.7096	0.7131
Dutch Guilder	0.4074	0.4094
Swedish Krona	0.0445	0.0447
Italian Lira	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	0.0445	0.0447

Other Currencies Date: 4/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8210	1.8410
Lebanese Lira	3.40945	0.04540
Saudi Riyal	0.1537	0.1555
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3700
Qatari Riyal	0.1558	0.1560
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2200
Omani Rial	1.7540	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1875	0.1895
Greek Drachma	0.0715	0.0750
Cypriot Pound	1.4235	1.5325

Per 100

Tasty hommous, falafel set for bitter price hike

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If you have noticed that the tasty falafel balls at the popular restaurant next door have become smaller and that you are getting less pieces for the same money and if you wonder why that is, you should have had a look at Jordan's tabloids during the past weeks.

One popular weekly, for example, depicted hommous dealers and importers as voracious sharks, swallowing innocent Jordanian citizens fighting for their humble dish, which, like everything else in the country, has once again become more expensive.

"We are seven at home," says Um Hani, a housewife from Zarqa, "we eat falafel and hommous every day. Sometimes I make my own hommous at home, which is cheaper. But it is a lot of work and even the grain has become a lot more expensive."

The price of falafel increased by 25 per cent in mid October. The popular hom-

mous platé, the so-called "meat of the poor," officially still costs 225 fils, but the Ministry of Supply, responsible for the pricing of the nutritious dish, is expected to readjust prices soon.

Many restaurants have already raised prices to 250-270 fils per plate. Other restaurants cannot but continue selling the hommous plate at a fixed 225 fils, although the market price of hommous grain has almost doubled since July this year. They somehow cope with the discrepancy between production cost and official pricing — naturally at the expense of the consumer.

"A tonne of first class hommous used to cost us around JD 400 until this summer," a hommous importer in the downtown area of Suk Al Sukkar explains. "Then, in August, prices started going up, reaching JD 700-800 per tonne in October."

Most hommous importers attribute the price hike to this year's poor hommous crop in Turkey. Because of its abundant water resources — hom-

mous needs a wet environment to grow — Turkey dominates the regional hommous market.

An official source, who requested anonymity, said that in addition to this year's poor crop, several deliveries of hommous coming from Turkey were rejected by the Jordanian authorities at Aqaba and sent back because pesticides had been detected, thus causing a further shortage and price increases on the Jordanian market.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Jordan in 1993 imported 14,657 tonnes of hommous, 95 per cent of which were from Turkey.

The remaining five per cent were brought from Syria and Britain.

Some businessmen suspect that the market-dominating Turkish dealers may have tuned the prices.

"I do not think so," contends a big hommous importer in Suk Al Sukkar, "the crops have indeed been bad and you should also take into account that there is war in the Kurdish areas of Turkey. We used to buy a lot from Diyarbakir, which is in the centre of Turkish Kurdis-

tan."

Jordan produces only the so-called "hommous baladi," a grain of relatively low quality not suitable for the popular hommous puree. In 1993, 2,838 tonnes of "hommous baladi" were harvested in Jordan, of which 54 tons were exported, mainly to the Gulf States and Saudi Arabia.

90 per cent of the hommous imported to Jordan is used for hommous and falafel. Restaurant owners throughout town complain that although the prices of all raw materials have gone up significantly, they have not been allowed to increase their prices for more than five years.

As a result of the recent price hike, some falafel bakers have started to use beans as a basic ingredient, instead of hommous. This, as one grains dealer claims, has led to a 20 per cent increase of the market prices for beans.

Other restaurants reduced the quantity or quality of their product. "We stopped selling hommous when the price of the grain went up," says a restaurant owner close to Abdali bus station. The owner of a very popu-

lar restaurant in Jebel Luweibdeh complains that "the government does not understand. This is not a business anymore, but rather a social service we give to the people." But he admits that another price increase will be hard for his customers, who are mainly government employees and workers.

"With a salary no more than JD 100 a month, and sometimes even less, they are going to feel it. But now, there is hardly any profit in this business," he pointed out.

Though businessmen are very likely to claim they do not make any profits, prices have indeed gone up: Plastic boxes used to take away the nutritious dish increased by 50 per cent, olive oil and tahina have doubled and tripled, says the owner of a popular 24-hour restaurant downtown, one of the busiest hommous places in Amman.

"We are making money by selling tea, the hommous is hardly profitable at these prices," he explains. "I wish the prices were determined by the market and not by the government. But as long as

there are free prices, the price per plate of hommous should be raised to at least 300 fils (now: 225 fils), to cover the production costs," he adds.

The Restaurant Owner's Association (Niqabat Ashab Al Mazaim), which represents 1,400 classified popular restaurants in Amman, equally calls for free market prices of hommous and falafel. "But 250 to 260 fils per plate would be enough to cover the production cost and ensure a reasonable profit margin," says Mr. Yassin Akkash, director of the association. "Since the grain accounts for only 10-12 per cent of the total production costs, a 10-15 per cent increase of prices would be sufficient," he says.

According to Mr. Akkash, the association has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Supply, "the results of which we expect to see any day now. The Ministry of Supply so far has not declared whether, when and how much the prices for hommous are going to increase officially. In spite of numerous attempts, the ministry refused to give any information."

Abu Dhabi aims to quadruple industrial output

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Abu Dhabi, the main oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has launched a drive to quadruple its industrial output in the next 14 years as part of attempts to diversify its economy.

The emirate has approved the establishment of three major industrial zones and earmarked an initial sum of 100 million dirhams (\$27.2 million) in soft loans to potential investors, the UAE press reported Saturday.

The projects followed a study by the government-run Emirates Industry Corporation (EIC) on long-term plans to diversify the economy following a sharp decline in oil prices over the past decade.

"It is expected that such projects will push the gross domestic product (GDP) in

the industrial sector from 5.58 billion dirhams (\$1.52 billion) to 11.1 billion dirhams (\$3.02 billion) in 1998, to 16.3 billion dirhams (\$4.45 billion) in 2003 and 20.9 billion dirhams (\$5.69 billion) in 2008," said the study published in local newspapers.

Officials said the new zones would be set up in sites close to ports and population centres and industrial projects would include light and medium products as well as petrochemicals, which are still absent in the UAE despite its enormous crude oil and gas reserves.

Abu Dhabi already has small industries including chemicals, clothes and textiles, foodstuffs, paper, home appliances, cement and other building materials. In neighbouring Dubai, more than \$1

billion have been invested in the Jebel Ali free zone in manufacturing, services and marketing.

The industrial sector has been the main target of the UAE and other Gulf oil producers seeking to lessen reliance on crude exports, which still account for more than 80 per cent of their total exports. This is because their agricultural and tourism sectors are limited.

"It is just the start," an EIC official told AFP. "We have chalked out a far-reaching industrialisation plan which we are certain will succeed given our modern infrastructure, cheap energy and large financing capabilities."

The UAE, a key OPEC member, sits atop 98 billion barrels of crude, nearly 10 per cent of the world's total

oil reserves, besides around 5.7 trillion cubic metres (190 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas.

The government set up an industrial bank in the mid-1980s to extend loans and technical assistance for manufacturing projects as the lending activity of the commercial banks has been concentrated on trade and construction.

The UAE's non-oil industrial sector has steadily grown over the past few years, with its GDP rising from around 9.7 billion dirhams (\$2.64 billion) in 1990 to 9.9 billion dirhams (\$2.69 billion) in 1992 and 10.89 billion dirhams (\$2.96 billion) in 1993.

The 1993 figure accounted for around eight per cent of the total GDP of 131.6 billion dirhams (\$35.8 billion).

McDonnell to sell 40 jets to China for \$1.6b

WASHINGTON (R) — McDonnell Douglas Corp has signed a \$1.6 billion deal to supply China with 40 commercial jetliners, half of which will be built in Chinese factories.

The order, finalised Friday, covers both MD-80s and MD-90s, which will be delivered to China over the next four years.

Long under negotiation, the announcement modifies an earlier deal and is perfectly timed to coincide with next week's elections, when jobs and the health of the economy are a high priority among disgruntled voters.

California is a tough race for the Democrats, and much of the new order will be filled by west coast workers. "We all know that there is a simple equation: American exports equal American jobs," said Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who presided over the signing ceremony.

Mr. Brown has been instrumental in the plane order, lobbying hard for new business both here and during a mission to China this summer that resulted in billions of dollars in business.

He cited the deal as an example of "the Clinton administration's policy of commercial engagement with China."

McDonnell Chairman John McDonnell, who signed the agreement, said the new order should secure about 4,600 high-skill, high-wage jobs across the United States. He also tipped his hat to Mr. Brown's lobbying drive, saying the commerce chief "has expanded and changed the meaning of what U.S. government can do to support U.S. industry."

Even as other U.S.-Sino trade spats come to a head, Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing said the commercial accord would enhance ties between the two sides.

"Secretary Brown and I have reached consensus that we should join in efforts to strengthen our cooperation," Mr. Li said through a translator.

The original deal called for the manufacture in Shanghai of 20 intermediate range MD-80 twinjets and 20 MD-90 aircraft, McDonnell's latest jetliner.

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1st Division Basketball Championship Jazireh, Jalil aim for victory; Homentmen clash with Al Watani

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least two of the three matches lined up for Sunday in the first division basketball championship are very crucial for the teams and eagerly awaited by their fans.

Al Jazireh clash with Al Jalil in Irbid as both teams eye the third or second placed standing this season, while in Amman Al Watani meet all-time rivals Homentmen at the Sports Palace.

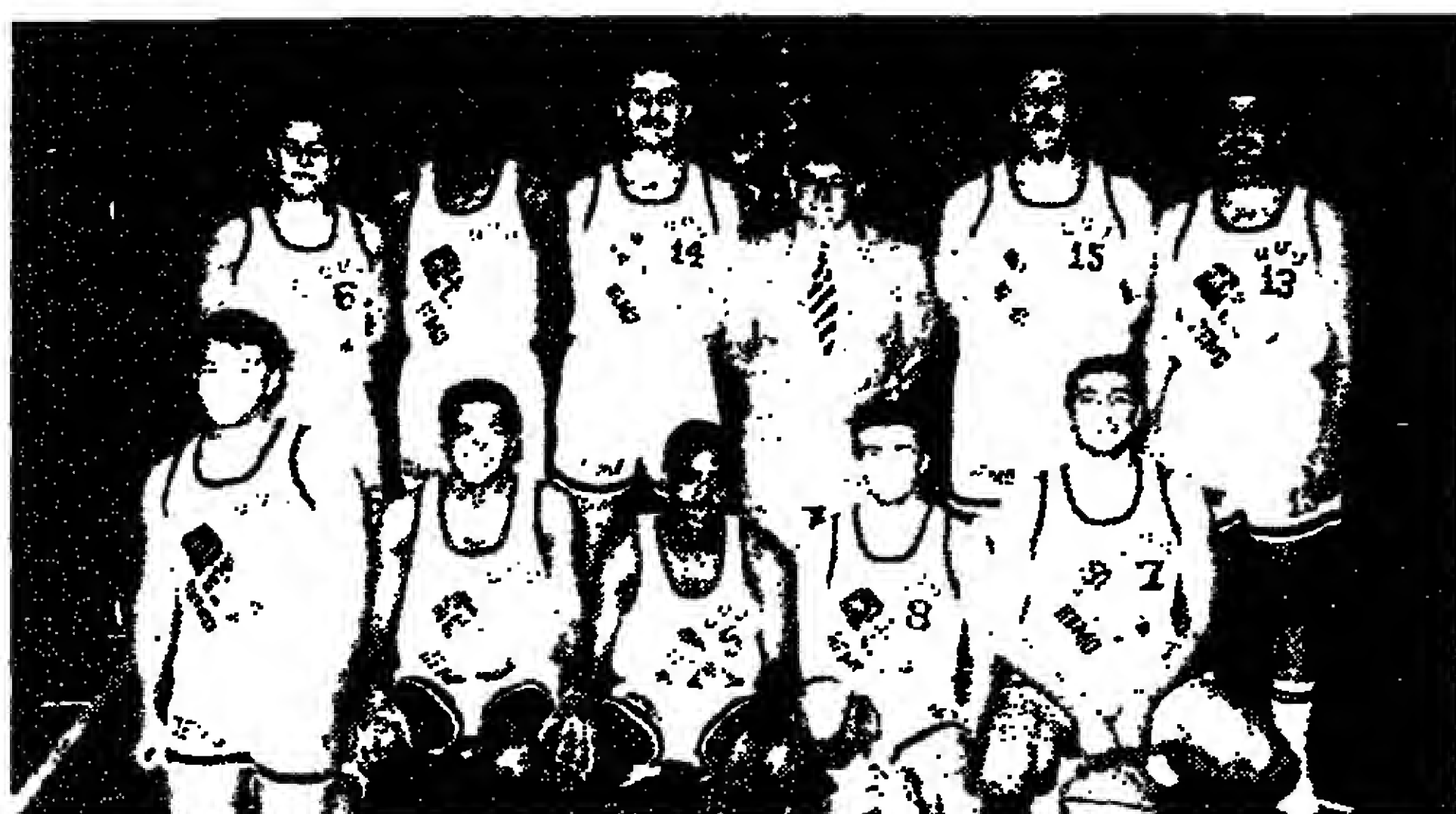
In the third match, Al Hussein take on titleholders Al Ahli.

Homentmen's match against Al Watani is crucial to both teams.

Al Watani are better prepared than their opponents and aim to advance last year's fifth place standing. Winning is also very important as two teams will be relegated this season and Al Watani need to defeat Al Hussein and Homentmen in order to maintain their place in the first division.

Homentmen are in an unenviable form. They enter the competition with the least preparedness after starting training late and not having effective substitutes.

Al Jazireh's match against Al Jalil will demonstrate both team's capabilities and ambitions.



Al Watani's team

Al Jalil's coach has asserted that his team will be playing for an advanced standing this year and would not settle for fourth place again.

Al Jazireh too are ready to advance their third place standing especially that last year's runner up Al Orthodoxy will be represented by their younger lineup of players following the retirement of older players, especially Murad Barakat who will be coaching.

Al Jazireh scored a 91-68 win over Al Watani on the first day of the competition Thursday.

Although scoring remained close at the beginning, Al Jazireh took charge with a tight man-to-man defence that enabled Ghaith Ennabi, Naser Alawneh and Husam Lutfi to score and win the first half 46-29.

Al Watani caught up and reduced the gap at the start of the second half, but Ennabi's accurate three pointers, together with Alawneh and Saqr Khirfan maintained their team's lead, scoring a convincing 23 point win.

In another match, titleholders Al Ahli sailed through their match against

newcomers Homentmen scoring a big 135-26 win.

Al Ahli gave all bench players a chance especially after Naser Bushnaq and Sami Sa'duldin had four personal fouls.

Sevan Sarkissian was Homentmen's best player. However they were no match for the champions who won the first half 69-13.

Al Orthodoxy-Hussein match did not take place and the Jordan Basketball Federation decided to postpone it after Al Orthodoxy were unable to get to Irbid in time after floods closed the road.

Samaranch says drug use declining

LISBON (R) — International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Friday that doping by athletes was declining in competitions but added international federations should keep a close eye on training.

"We think it (drug use) is really declining. We have very little problems during the main competitions like the Olympic Games," he said at the 25th anniversary meeting of the Association of European National Olympic Committees.

"But the problem we have now is to control doping during the training times," he told a news conference. "That is the responsibility of the international federations. There are some federations doing important work in this area like the international athletics federation."

"But we the International Olympic Committee and also the national Olympic committees, we must support the international federations in this fight."

"I think today that doping is less important than it was some years ago, but we still have some problems. We have a very active medical commission."

Samaranch said the Olympic movement was the first to crack down on drug use in sports and recalled that the IOC had suspended "the most popular athlete" at the 1988 Seoul Games, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

Samaranch was asked if he was suspicious about the emergence of world-class Chinese athletes in international competitions and whether he suspected that some might use drugs.

"We consider a person innocent until proven guilty," he replied. "There are more than a billion people in China, with a centralised government that has decided to back sport, so it is not strange that China can produce athletes of such a high international level."

"China has carried out anti-doping control and tests have been negative," the IOC president added.

Last month Samaranch defended China's top athletes, saying they did not take drugs and sport in China was "very clean."

Samaranch said he expected record revenue from television rights and commercial sponsorship at the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics, 35 per cent higher than at the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

"I think Atlanta will be a record, a record for television rights, and a record for commercial (sponsorship)," he said.

Atlanta's Olympic organisers said last month they must still find at least \$100 million to meet their budget of \$1.6 billion.

Samaranch said he opposed awarding cash to competitors.

"We are not thinking in terms of money prizes. We feel that taking part in the Olympic Games is a supreme honour for all the athletes and if you ask an athlete what he aspires to most, he will say victory in the games," he said.

Samaranch said he would visit South Africa, Angola, Namibia, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe later this month to explore prospects for Africa to host the 2004 Olympics.

"I will travel with an Olympic delegation to South Africa in November and visit Cape Town, a city that hopes to organise the Olympic Games in 2004," he said.

"We in the Olympic Games hope very much that for the first time the Olympic Games will be organised on the African continent, where they have never been held."

Navratilova still planning to retire

OAKLAND (Agencies) — Martina Navratilova looks forward to sampling wines, riding her horses and doing all the fun things she has put aside during two marvellous decades in tennis.

Everywhere she goes these days, she receives gifts designed for her post-tennis life — a mountain bike, a snowboard, a windsurfing board. She received a Porsche in Stuttgart, and got a case of wine here in Oakland.

Even though she steadfastly maintains this is her last year, and says she is comfortable with her decision to retire, it still is difficult to completely walk away from a sport she once dominated.

During a post-match cere-

mony Thursday night after her victory over Amy Frazier in the Bank of the West Classic, fans paid tribute to Navratilova, mostly, they pleaded with her not to retire.

"The hardest thing is saying no to everybody," she told the fans, then gave them a glimmer of hope by hinting she might return to Oakland some day to play doubles.

Actually, Navratilova has her own dream. "Ideally, I would like to take a couple of years off and come back," she said later at a news conference. "But I think it's a little too late for that."

Navratilova said she's in good-enough physical shape

to continue playing on the pro tour for two more years. But she said she no longer can focus all her energy on tennis, and the hours of practice and travel it demands.

There are times when Navratilova wonders why she didn't retire a year ago, and there are times when retirement seems too close.

She experienced both of those emotions as she rallied to defeat Frazier 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 to reach the semifinals of a tournament she has won five times.

Navratilova was overpowered in the first set by Frazier, and seemed frustrated by her repeated unforced errors.

Navratilova, who reached

the Wimbledon final this summer, is just one win from reaching the final in Oakland for the fifth straight year. She'll face the winner of the quarterfinal between Debbie Graham and Jolene Watanabe.

Navratilova, 38, is playing in her next-to-last tournament, she plans to retire after the Virginia Slims Championships that begin Nov. 14 in New York.

Meanwhile Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the world number two and top seed, shrugged off a screaming baby to beat Zina Garrison-Jackson in straight sets and reach the semi-finals of the WTA Tour tennis tournament Friday.

Schumacher on pole

SUZUKA (AFP) — Michael Schumacher clung to his overnight pole position Saturday, setting up a duel for the first bend against title rival Damon Hill at the Japanese Grand Prix.

Rain prevented any attempt at improving qualifying times from Friday's first session, leaving Schumacher, in the Benetton Ford, alongside Hill on the front row.

"If I can make it to the first corner first then I should be in good shape," said the Williams Renault number one, who is five points behind Schumacher in the drivers' standings before this penultimate race of the season.

"It is a very difficult circuit and being in front is crucial whether it is wet, as predicted, or dry," Hill said.

Schumacher, 25, who could be crowned the first German world champion on Sunday, managed to post the third fastest time in the wet second session on the twisty, figure-eight track.

"I didn't have any particular problem in the wet. We had a slight problem with the rear end in the morning but we solved it," he said.

"I feel pretty confident for tomorrow because I know the car and I know the circuit," said the German. He has won eight races so far in the 16-leg



Britain's Formula One driver Nigel Mansell (left) gestures while talking with his mechanic before the start of the first day's free practice session for the Japanese GP (AFP photo)

season, against Hill's five, and the Benetton is better balanced than the Williams equipped with the powerful Renault engine.

If Schumacher wins, Hill must come second to keep the title contest alive going into next week's Australian Grand Prix on the street circuit of Adelaide.

"I have more work to do than Michael," admitted the 34-year-old Briton. "I have to beat him tomorrow. There

is enormous pressure. But it will cramp your style if you think about it too much."

Hill's teammate and 1992 world champion, Nigel Mansell, was the day's revelation as he upstaged Formula One regulars in free practice before rain doused the 5.86-kilometre track.

The gritty 41-year-old has returned to Formula One under a deal to drive for Williams in the season's three final races.

IAAF uphold Ngugi's drugs ban

MONACO (AFP) — Athletics' ruling body upheld a four-year ban on five-times world cross country champion John Ngugi Saturday, after the Kenyan had failed to submit to a dope test.

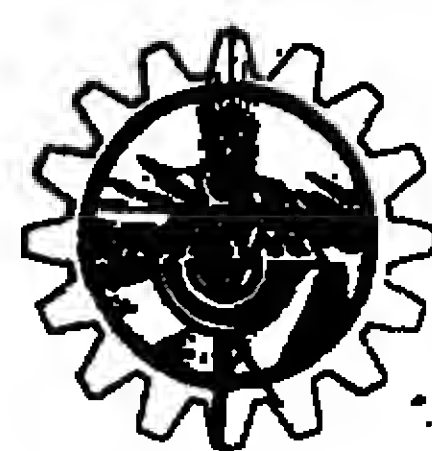
The three-man arbitration panel of the International Amateur Athletic Federation reached its verdict here after Ngugi had refused the out-of-competition test February 13, 1993.

The refusal constitutes a doping offence under the IAAF's rules, the federation said in a statement here.

Ngugi had been asked to provide a urine sample by doping control officer John Whetton at the athlete's Rift Valley home.

The panel said: "The athlete conceded his refusal to submit to testing, even after the consequences of his refusal were explained to him."

Ngugi, the 1988 Olympic 5,000m champion, appealed the ban and the IAAF Council sent the case to arbitration.



The Arab Potash Co. Ltd.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Arab Potash Company Limited

Invitation for contractors to tender for construction of pan C4 and dike raising contract No. APC/67/94

Suitably qualified and experienced contractors, equivalent to the Grade 1 contractors according to the Ministry of Works classification in the fields of earthmoving and road construction, are invited to bid for the above works being implemented by the Arab Potash Company as part of the expansion of the Solar Evaporation System at Safi in the Southern Basin of the Dead Sea.

1. The Project Description

(a) Construction of new dike 10 to complete Pan C4. This is located south of carnallite Pan C3 and west the Potash Refinery.

(b) Raising of existing dike 9.

(c) Raising of existing dike 5 (Optional).

The work will require the excavation, transport, placing and compacting of approximately 1.75 million cubic metres of gravel fill as marl core and sand filters. Haul distance will vary from 4 to 30 km.

The contract period will be less than two years and starts approximately April/May 1995 and will be implemented at the same time as other work being carried out by APC.

2. Conditions of Contract.

The conditions of contract are based on Part 1 of the Conditions of Contract for Works of Civil Engineering Construction, Fourth Edition 1987, prepared by the Federation Internationale des Ingenieurs. Conseils (FIDIC) and include Par 2, conditions of particular application. Jordanian law will apply to the contract.

3. Tender Documents.

Tender documents are available from the company main office — Shemisani / Amman from 8/11/1994 till 1/12/1994 against a non refundable payment of JD 700.

Tenderers will be required to submit their offers in three envelopes, the first containing a tender guarantee in the amount of JD 100,000, the second containing details of their experience by completing a separate volume comprising a post qualification questionnaire, and the third containing the financial offer. Any tender not accompanied by a tender guarantee will be considered.

Only tenderers who have demonstrated adequate prior experience of similar works will have the envelopes containing their financial offers opened and evaluated. Tenderers who are deemed to have insufficient experience, will have their financial offers returned unopened.

Closing date for the submission of tenders to the Amman, Shmeisani offices of the Arab Potash Company is 12:00 noon on 22 December 1994 and any tenders received after that time will not be considered.

For more information, contact the Civil Works Manager at site:

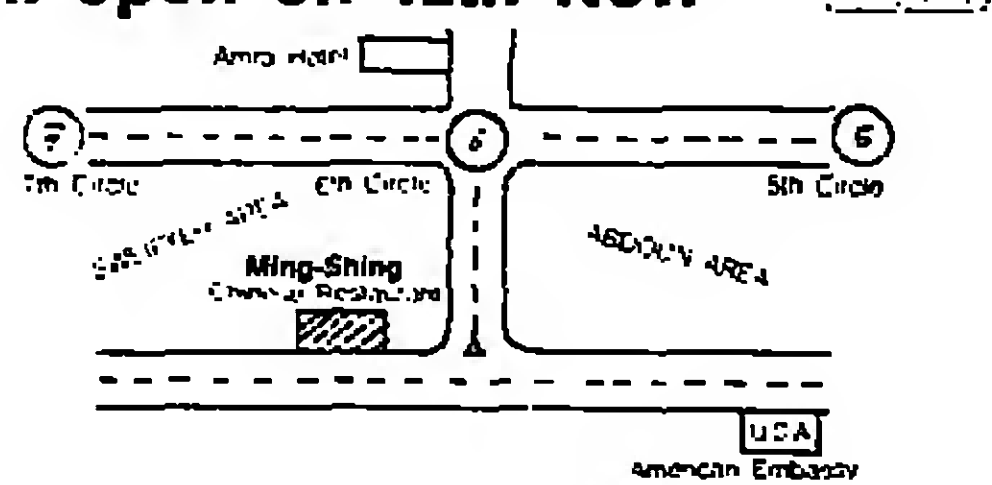
Tel. 3, 377121, 377122 or 377123.

Fax: 3, 377125 or 377131

Suleiman Hawari
Managing Director.

MING-SHING

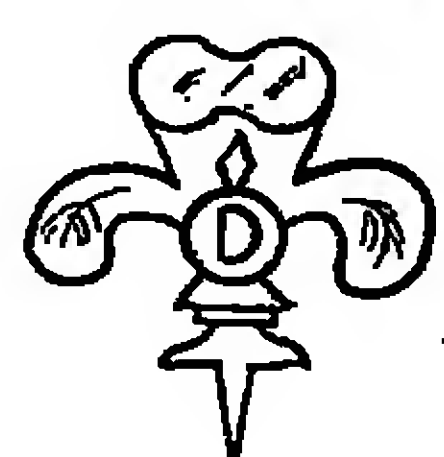
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- Fluency in English, with good writing ability.

Applications along with a current Curriculum Vitae, & a passport size photo should be mailed by November 15th, 1994, to the following address:

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U.S. expects no change in Iraq sanctions regime

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States expects the United Nations Security Council to maintain unchanged its programme of sanctions against Iraq when it next discusses the matter on Nov. 14, a State Department spokesman said on Friday.

Iraq's troop buildup near the Kuwaiti border last month has killed off support for easing the trade sanctions even among countries relatively sympathetic to Baghdad, spokesmen Mike McCurry said.

"We're confident that the Security Council will agree with us that no change in sanctions is warranted at that point," Mr. McCurry told a news briefing.

The Security Council holds consultations on the sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, every 60 days.

At the last meeting in September, France and Russia suggested that if U.N. monitoring over six months showed Iraq could not produce ballistic missiles, chemical or nuclear weapons, sanctions should be lifted.

But the United States and Britain quashed the proposal, which would have allowed Iraq to resume oil exports.

Mr. McCurry said Iraq had now forfeited what support it had due to its recent troop buildup. "We do detect some change in attitude based on what was most recently a very troubling and provocative move by (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein," he said.

Iraq pulled back its troops after the United States and its allies rushed forces to the region to counter any repeat of the 1990 invasion.

Despite last month's crisis, France has continued to sound more amenable to eventual lifting of sanctions. Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said last week the world should send "clear signs" to spell out what Baghdad was expected to do to emerge from its isolation.

Mr. McCurry accused Iraq of across-the-board failure to comply with U.N. demands, including on weapons of mass destruction, recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty and accounting for Kuwaiti citizens and property missing since the 1990 invasion.

A U.S. diplomat said Wednesday U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright, who chairs the Security Council

this month, could meet with Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz this week.

"There is no meeting scheduled," the U.S. diplomat said, speaking privately, "but if Tariq Aziz sought to meet with the president of the Security Council, (Albright) would meet with him as president of the council."

Mr. Aziz is scheduled to be in New York this week.

If the meeting were to take place, it would be the first official such contact between senior U.S. and Iraqi officials since the end of the Gulf war in 1991, even if Ms. Albright acts only in her capacity as Security Council president.

The U.S. diplomat said that to date, Washington had not changed its position on lifting the international oil embargo on Iraq. Iraq depends heavily on oil exports for its hard currency earnings.

"We see no reason to think that anything should change," the U.S. diplomat said.

"On the contrary, what we have seen since the last review is a provocative action by Iraq," he said, alluding to the Iraqi troop movements to the area near the Kuwaiti border.

Council members are to bear an oral report Nov. 11 by Rolf Ekeus, the head of the U.N. special commission on Iraqi disarmament, which is setting up a system for long-term monitoring of Iraq's military activities.

Allies hold war exercises

More than 100 U.S., British and Kuwaiti special forces soldiers parachuted from U.S. C-130 transport aircraft into the desert Saturday in an exercise aimed at boosting joint operations. U.S. military spokeswoman Major Donna Stacey told the Associated Press the exercise was part of operation Vigilant Warrior, launched last month.

Most of the soldiers in Saturday's airborne assault exercise jumped from C-130s at an altitude of 700 metres. But a few, including U.S. Navy seals, free fall from more than 4,200 metres using steerable parachutes. The exercise was conducted at an unspecified drop zone west of Kuwait City.

U.S. sees economic frustration behind attack on Arafat

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department said Friday economic frustration among Palestinians in Gaza was behind the rough treatment accorded Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat when he tried to attend a funeral for a militant Islamic leader.

Gazans knocked off Mr. Arafat's headrest Thursday, called him a traitor and threw him out of the mosque funeral. It was his worst political embarrassment since his endorsement by Israel last year as head of the Palestinian administration in Gaza and Jericho.

The State Department took the incident in stride Friday. Spokesman Michael McCurry said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "has a very difficult and contentious political environment to deal with, as well."

Mr. Rabin, who has turned over Gaza and Jericho to the PLO and is prepared to surrender at least part of the Golan Heights to Syria, has been denounced by political opponents as a traitor, too.

President Bill Clinton's administration and Mr. Rabin's government are depending on Mr. Arafat and his police to maintain order in Gaza and, ultimately, throughout the West Bank, which also will be given to him to administer.

"We continue to work with them to make sure they carry out the functions that they have been given," spokesman McCurry said. "Chairman Arafat has a very difficult and delicate political position, but then so does every other leader in the region."

The administration has raised pledges of \$2.5 billion in assistance to the PLO. At a



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives Russian envoy Victor Posavalyuk (Petra photo)

King receives Russian message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday received a verbal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin conveyed to him by Russian envoy Victor Posavalyuk expressing support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Mr. Posavalyuk quoted Mr. Yeltsin as pledging continued Russian efforts towards achieving peace on the other Arab-Israeli tracks.

King Hussein asked the envoy to carry his greetings to the Russian leader and to thank him for his continued concern over the region's issues.

Mr. Posavalyuk earlier met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and reviewed with him Russian efforts to give momentum to the peace process on all the Arab-Israeli tracks in cooperation with the United Nations.

The prime minister reiterated Jordan's keenness on arriving at a comprehensive peace in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and voiced Jordan's appreciation of the Russian role.

Dr. Majali also expressed Jordan's desire to promote Jordanian-Russian economic, technical and trade relations.

Earlier, the Russian envoy met Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and discussed the peace treaty.

Egyptian families bury victims of fire and flood

DRONKA, Egypt (Agencies) — When Mohammad Mahmoud Mustafa went to the morgue to identify 10 relatives burned to death in the fire that engulfed this southern Egyptian town, he could barely recognise the charred bodies of his family.

"I saw my brother. I could tell it was his face. The others we just guessed from their size and bits of clothes," he said.

"We buried them all last night in the family grave," he added, clutching the 10 hospital permits that allowed the bodies of his brother, four nephews and their children to be released for burial.

Three days after burning fuel swept through Dronka on a deluge of floodwater, officials say most of the nearly 500 victims have been buried. Many were claimed by relatives. Others were buried in a communal grave.

But rescue workers on Saturday morning pulled seven bodies from charred and waterlogged homes while people waited gloomily for news of relatives still missing.

People picked through the wreckage of their houses, unearthing sacks of grain, plates, and broken furniture.

A baby boy was found alive Saturday after floating like Moses on straw bedding which saved him from the flood and fire.

The seven-month-old baby Hussein Tolba Hatab floated for three days and 15 kilometres on the makeshift

bedding after floods swept through his home, killing his parents and seven brothers and sisters.

A farmer found the boy after he went to drain his field. "When I tried to drain water off my field this morning, I found a child who was floating on his back. His eyes were closed," Abdul Hamdan Yunes told AFP.

"I took him in my arms and I saw he was still alive. I ran to my wife and asked her to give him her milk. He is in very good health. It's a miracle. God be praised," the farmer said.

The farmer climbed onto his tractor and drove around trying to find the baby's parents by announcing the news on a loudspeaker.

His aunt recognised the boy and took him in.

"Thanks to God that the fire spared him," Mr. Yunes said.

In the fields outside Dronka, where many bodies were swept along by the floods, corpses were still turning up.

Mahrousa Thabit Mahmoud, taking shelter in the primary school that has been her home since her house was swamped in a sea of mud nearly two metres high, said she had given up hope for her two young grandsons, Mohammad and Mahmoud.

"No one has seen them since the disaster," she said. "Maybe they were carried away in the flood."

At Assiut's main university

Officials doubted if people knew whether they were really burying their own dead or the charred remains of neighbours.

"They were so badly burned no one could tell who they were. People just came to claim a body. I don't know if the found the right ones," said hospital manager Mohammad Ibrahim Taha.

In Dronka, where survivors say they have been left to the mercy of charitable relatives and friends, Mustafa echoed growing bitterness over inaction by a government that many hold partly responsible for the disaster.

"No one is thinking of doing anything for us," (Prime Minister Atef) Sedki came here and said a couple of words and left. They say they are giving compensation but there is nothing," he said as he rescued a last waterlogged sack of grain from his burnt-out house.

"There's a hundred homeless families staying with relatives. What's the government going to do?" he said.

He was standing in the area worst hit by the inferno, a dried-up river bed flanked on both sides by cemeteries about one kilometre from the huge fuel tanks that burst

Assad, Hrawi study moves in peace talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The president of Syria and Lebanon met in Damascus Saturday to discuss Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's refusal to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon.

President Hafez Al Assad also briefed his Lebanese counterpart, Elias Hrawi, on the outcome of his summit meeting with President Bill Clinton in the Syrian capital last week, a palace spokesman said.

The spokesman, Jubran Khourieh, said that during the five-hour meeting, Mr. Assad and Mr. Hrawi stressed the importance of coordinating the next moves in their tortuous peace negotiations with Israel.

Syria and Lebanon broke off talks last February and the negotiations have been deadlocked ever since.

The sticking points include Israel's refusal to make a commitment to a complete withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights and South Lebanon, where guerrillas attack the Israeli-occupied zone almost daily.

Syria's media has been lambasting Mr. Rabin for refusing to withdraw from South Lebanon, the last active warzone in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Israelis have occupied a border enclave, known as the "security zone" in South Lebanon since 1985.

On Oct. 29, Mr. Hrawi offered to establish a joint committee with Israel to draw up a timetable for a withdrawal with Lebanese guarantees that guerrillas in South Lebanon would be curbed.

Mr. Rabin has said there will be no pullback just to hold peace talks and has questioned the Lebanese army's ability to rein in the guerrillas.

Syria's Al Thawra daily said Saturday Mr. Rabin's position means that he is "determined to separate South Lebanon from the rest of the land... to swallow it and continue to ignore the principles of a just and comprehensive peace in the region as a whole."

The state-run newspaper said in an editorial that Mr. Rabin's position was part of an Israeli campaign "to black out" Mr. Clinton's efforts to give momentum to the Middle East peace process during his recent tour.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said meanwhile he doubted President Clinton made promises in his meeting with President Assad last month regarding an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

He was reacting to remarks made by Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez at a parliamentary committee meeting on Friday.

"To the best of my knowledge, the U.S. president would not put forward American proposals in the argument between us and the Syrians," Mr. Peres told Israel's army radio.

"I am convinced that the American president... will be

Charles wraps up Los Angeles visit

LOS ANGELES (R) — Britain's Prince Charles wrapped up his five-day visit to Los Angeles, which has taken him from riot-torn areas of the city to the glitz of Hollywood, with a speech to local business leaders Friday.

Prince Charles then left for a visit to the British colony of Hong Kong, which will be turned over to mainland China in 1997. During his stay in Los Angeles, the prince toured the south central section of the city, which was devastated by the 1992 race riots in which 56 people died, and property damage was estimated at \$1 billion, as well as other areas hard-hit by the unrest. He also saw at first hand the damage inflicted by the unrest on other areas of Los Angeles.

Charles, who was invited to Los Angeles by then-mayor Tom Bradley shortly after the riots, had specifically asked to see how communities were rebuilding, both physically and morally. He spent two days of his visit in schools, training centres and community projects. But the prince also made time for Hollywood's elite, attending the premiere of the film, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, and attending a star-studded bash at the home of television mogul Aaron Spelling. He also had a private meeting with entertainer Barbra Streisand, who the starstruck heir to the British throne once called "my only pinup," as well as paying an unscheduled visit to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, at their Bel-air mansion.

Ciller pledges to help Palestinians

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Saturday pledged aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), on the first visit to the autonomous areas by a foreign head of government.

PNA head Yasser Arafat said Turkey was pledging \$50 million for Palestinian housing and infrastructure.

Coming from occupied Jerusalem where she met her Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Rabin, Ms. Ciller's visit to Gaza City was seen as a show of support for the Palestinian authority.

"The situation is a matter of priority," Ms. Ciller said of the problems facing Gaza and the Palestinians.

"It should be a priority for the whole world," she said, singling out a housing shortage in the areas.

"We think we can help... this is a contribution from Turkey to our brothers and sisters in Palestine," she told reporters in a briefing after her two-hour meeting with Mr. Arafat.

Earlier the Turkish premier visited Jerusalem's Old City and Al Aqsa mosque.

Wearing a head scarf in line with Muslim tradition, Ms. Ciller said noon prayers at Al Aqsa.

Outside the mosque, she met with mothers of Palestinian security detainees who demanded that Ms. Ciller pressure Israel to release the men.

Ms. Ciller also talked with a leading cleric, Ikrama Sabiri.

"Her visit means to us that the Muslims are one family," Sheikh Sabri told the Associated Press. "She respects Islamic principles, when she came to the mosque, she covered her head."

Sheikh Sabri said he outlined to Ms. Ciller the Palestinian demands to run the Muslim holy sites in Arab East Jerusalem.

"Your visit today was a very important visit," Mr. Arafat told Ms. Ciller in Gaza. "You have kept your promise and came to visit us here in the first Palestinian lands liberated after the (Israeli) occupation."

Turkey has expressed interest in sending forces to an international team to monitor

Belgian cardinal: Divorcees can have communion

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian cardinal said Friday priests did not have the right to refuse holy communion to divorcees who do not abstain from sex, defying a ban by the Pope last month.

Cardinal Godfried Danneels, who is part of the college which can elect a pope, told reporters the issue of giving communion to divorcees would be discussed by Belgian bishops at their monthly conference next Tuesday. "A priest does not have the right to refuse communion to divorced people... one should not stigmatise people," the cardinal was quoted by Belga News Agency as saying. A spokesman for the cardinal confirmed his comments and said it was not up to a priest to make a judgment on someone who wanted communion. Card. Danneels' public stand followed an announcement by two leading bishops in northern Belgium last month they would defy the communion ban. On Oct. 14, the Vatican said in a letter to the world's bishops that Catholics who divorce and remarry cannot receive communion unless they abstain from sex.

Fergie offered role on U.S. TV — papers

LONDON (R) — The Duchess of York, estranged wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, has been offered a role in a celebrity episode of the popular U.S. television series Baywatch, British newspapers reported Saturday. "A script has been prepared for her, and she has already had talks with the show's hunky male lead and director David Hasselhoff," the Daily Star, a popular tabloid, said. British entrepreneur Richard Branson is expected to appear in the same episode of the lifeguard show which is due to be screened next year. The show is broadcast in about 50 countries. "I have had detailed discussions by phone. I am expecting a call from her," the Daily Mirror quoted Hasselhoff as saying. The flame-haired duchess, popularly known as "Fergie", married Prince Andrew in 1986 and the couple separated in 1992. They have two young daughters. The Daily Mail, another tabloid, said Hasselhoff met the duchess and Branson when a trip on Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airline to the Baywatch set was auctioned on behalf of one of the duchess' favourite charities. Meanwhile, the Duchess of York's former butler Friday promised the high court he would not reveal confidential details gleaned while he worked for her.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi mufti urges Muslims to avoid World Court

CAIRO (AP) — A top Saudi clergyman says Muslim governments should not take their disputes to the World Court but should seek Islamic solutions. The London-headquartered Al Hayat newspaper reported the ruling Saturday by the influential Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Baz, the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia. "Muslims are forbidden by the law of God to resort to international institutions to resolve their disputes," the paper quoted him as saying. "I give my sincerest advice to all the leaders of the Islamic countries... that the only way to resolve their differences on property, rights and political borders, etc... is to resort to the laws of God through a commission of knowledgeable and just scientists of Shari'a," he said. The paper did not say what prompted the ruling. But at least three Gulf disputes could end up before the World Court in the Hague. Al Hayat said Sheikh Ben Baz termed appeals to the court as "non-Islamic" and said "Muslims should not resort to them." He added: "God shall punish those who disregard his laws." In addition to his position as mufti, Sheikh Ben Baz is head of the Saudi-headquartered League of the Islamic World.

Kuwait might test visitors for AIDS

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait might carry out medical tests on frequent visitors to countries with high AIDS infection rates, a newspaper reported on Saturday. "Kuwait is likely to start testing citizens and expatriates who frequently visit countries with a large number of AIDS patients," the Arab Times quoted a health official as saying. Kuwait demands AIDS test for all expatriates working in the emirate and deports all non-Kuwaitis infected with the virus. A committee trying to prevent the spread of AIDS in the emirate is also studying the possibility of imposing an obligatory pre-marital AIDS test, the paper quoted the official as saying. Less than 30 Kuwaiti nationals proved to be infected with the AIDS virus since 1985, the official said. He did not give the number of expatriates infected since.

Reuters reporter released in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the Gaza Strip released

Reuters reporter Taher Shriteh on Friday without charge. Mr. Shriteh, who also works for leading U.S. and British news organisations, was detained nine days ago. The authority gave no explanation for why he was held. Media and human rights groups had appealed to PNA Chairman Yasser Arafat to release Mr. Shriteh, saying he was carrying out normal journalistic duties. Mr. Shriteh was held last month with a Reuters Television crew and photographer after the publication of a video tape showing Israeli soldiers in a Palestinian town. Mr. Shriteh was kidnapped by the militant Islamic group Hamas and later killed. All four journalists were released without charge.

Government employee killed in south Egypt

ASSIUT (R) — Suspected Muslim militants who mistook a truck for a police vehicle shot and killed a government employee and wounded another in southern Egypt on Saturday, security sources said. The gunmen, who escaped, opened fire in the village of Bani Hafez near the town of Mallawi in Minya, where militants fighting to overthrow the government have carried out several attacks over the past few months. The security sources named the dead man as Mohammad Badr, who was driving a truck belonging to the state-owned Company for Construction in central Egypt from the province of Minya to Assiut province further south. The company's business director, Marzouk Beshri Gabriel, was shot in the stomach and is in hospital, the sources said.

Iran denies suspects related to officials

NICOSIA (R) — Iran on Saturday denied that two men accused of killing former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar were related to President Hashemi Akbar Rafsanjani or late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The official Iranian news agency IRNA said a Foreign Ministry spokesman "categorically denied" that Zeynal Sarhadi and Massoud Hendi were related to the senior officials. Hendi and Sarhadi as well as Ali Vakili Rad went on trial in France this week for the murder of Bakhtiar in 1991. In court, Hendi denied reports that he was a nephew of Mr. Rafsanjani. Media reports have said Sarhadi was a great nephew of Mr. Rafsanjani. Six other Iranians are being tried in absentia and prosecutors reckon Iran's Islamic government is behind the killings. Tehran has denied all involvement (see page 2).

Lower Majali refut

By Ayman Al Safadi

AMMAN (R) — Lower Majali refuted the claims of the PLO that it was the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The PLO's claim that it was the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories was refuted by Lower Majali, a prominent figure in the Palestinian community.

Lower Majali stated that the PLO's claim was unfounded and that there were many other legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

He emphasized that the PLO's claim was based on a narrow and biased view of the Palestinian community and that it did not represent the interests of all Palestinians.

Lower Majali called for a more inclusive and democratic process for the representation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

He urged the PLO to step back and allow for a more representative and accountable leadership.

Lower Majali's refutation of the PLO's claim was met with mixed reactions from the Palestinian community.

Some supporters of the PLO expressed disappointment and concern, while others welcomed the challenge to the PLO's monopoly on representation.

The issue of legitimate representation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories remains a contentious and complex one.

It is clear that there is a need for a more inclusive and democratic process for the representation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Only through such a process can the interests of all Palestinians be truly represented and their aspirations for a just and peaceful future be realized.